

THE *Whole* TRUTH

Presiding Bishop G. E. Patterson: Doctoral Hooding

New Era for Publishing Ministry

Women's Convention 2003

International Evangelist

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COGIC

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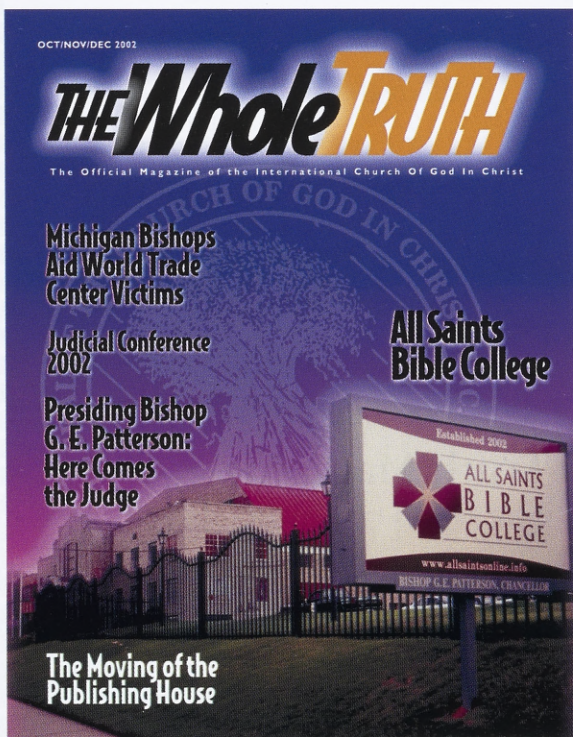
1973 - 2003

The seal of the Church of God in Christ is a large, circular emblem in the background. It features a central sunburst design. The outer ring of the seal contains the text "SEAL OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST" at the top and "MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE" at the bottom. Below the sunburst, the text "ORGANIZED 1907" is visible.

THE *Whole* TRUTH

The Whole Truth Magazine, The Official Magazine of the Church Of God In Christ

It is the mission of *The Whole Truth Magazine* to provide the general constituency of the Church Of God In Christ with a quality publication which will edify, educate and empower. This will be accomplished through special features which include coverage of religious and news events relevant to the Church Of God In Christ; profiles of GOGIC members; and, literary contributions by COGIC members. *The Whole Truth Magazine* shall endeavor to effect greater unity within this denominational body of Christ by communicating the program and message of the leadership of our National Church and by promoting and utilizing the wealth and resources of journalistic talent from among our own constituency.



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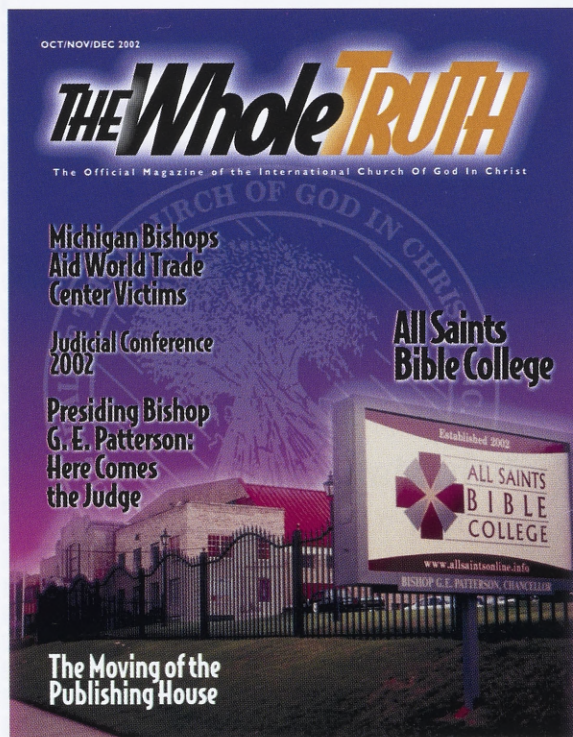
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Department of Fine Arts AD

THE Whole TRUTH

COGIC BOOKSTORE



1973 - 2003



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Church Of God In Christ, Inc.

International Headquarters

Memphis, Tennessee



Office of the Presiding Bishop

Dear Saints:

Holy greetings to each of you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are now in the month of May. For the women of our church, in addition to Mother's Day, many of them are looking forward to the International Women's Convention. With that thought in mind, I would like to salute all of the great natural and spiritual mothers of our church.

"And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." Matthew 24:6-8

Our nation has just come through a time of war. Although there were casualties, we must thank God that we did not suffer an innumerable amount of loss of life. It remains our sacred duty to continue to pray for our President, our troops, our nation and even the citizens of Iraq whose land has been ravished by the instruments of war. Recently, there was an earthquake in Turkey that killed a number of young children at a boarding school. A little known disease called SARS has surfaced and spread from Hong Kong to various countries around the world. Yet in the midst of all of this, our God has sustained His people by His divine protection.

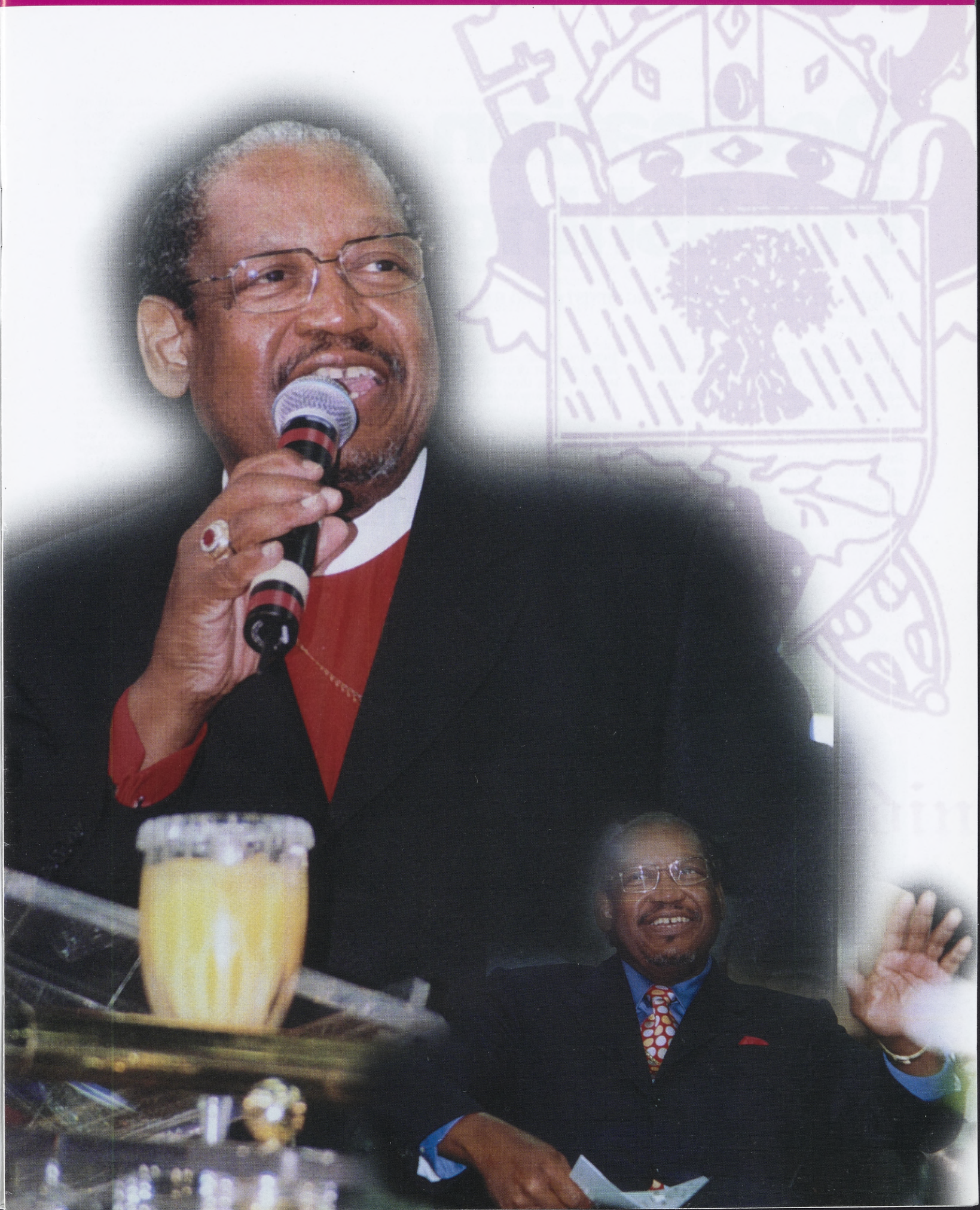
The current backdrop of human suffering and anguish is providing an unprecedented opportunity for the body of Christ to share the glorious gospel of the soon coming of our Savior. We need your support as we prepare to seize the moment not only by our spiritual presence but with programs that will impact the total man. In April we held our Second Annual COGIC Charities Banquet to fund *COGIC Charities* which is the benevolent arm of the national church. *COGIC Charities* is only one example of many things that we have planned as the Church Of God In Christ attempts to reach the world for Jesus Christ. Please pray about sharing a gift to help further the work of your national church. Perhaps you would like to give to COGIC Charities, COGIC World Missions or even the Mason Temple renovation fund. You may send your love gifts to COGIC ~ P.O. Box 38 ~ Memphis, TN 38101.

I close with the words of the Apostle Paul *"Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you." II Corinthians 13:11*

Yours in Christ,

Bishop G.E. Patterson

930 Mason Street • Memphis, Tennessee 38126



Dedication of Publishing House

USHERS IN NEW ERA IN PUBLISHING MINISTRY: CEO HALL UNVEILS NEW PRODUCT LINE OF SERVICES

By Calvin L. Burns

Memphis, Tennessee -- A historic chapter was added to the rich legacy of the Church Of God In Christ's printing ministry starting at 10 a.m., Wednesday, April 9. This was indeed a shinning moment for our International Church as Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson and the General Board conducted the official Grand Opening and Dedication observance of the relocation and renovation of the COGIC Publishing House. The glow on our Chief Apostle's countenance was as radiant as a rainbow after a storm as he recalled the events that led to the Publishing House being moved from its old location at 291 S. Hernando, to its current site at 2500 Lamar, the former home of the B&M Printing Company.

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson led the audience in the following Dedication Litany:

To the Glory of God we dedicate this facility for the publication of literature that will bless our Church and evangelize the world. We dedicate this facility. It is for Thine Honor and thy Glory alone, that we dedicate this House. And we thank you Lord, in the name of Jesus. Amen

The dynamics involved that prompted the move of COGIC's print and publication ministry provided another opportunity for Presiding Bishop Patterson to give a cogent display of why his administration has become renowned for being one of innovation and keen insight. To quote a well-known rural adage in regards to this historic move, our Presiding Bishop and the General Board: "Took a lemon and made lemonade."

City officials advised the Presiding Bishop in early 2002 that they would execute eminent domain to acquire the 291 S.

Hernando site. Elected public servants from both the city and county were intent on obtaining the property so they could honor their vow to the National Basketball Association to build a \$250 million arena for the Memphis Grizzlies.

"They (the City of Memphis) were going to take the property by eminent domain if we didn't workout something," Presiding Bishop Patterson reflected in a victorious tone. "They were trying to give us less than a million dollars but, somehow, I friendly persuaded them to come on up to \$1.8 million."

General Board Member, Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush, chuckled as he noted that our Chief Apostle had grossly understated his astute negotiation skills in getting the City of Memphis to sweeten its initial offer for the old Publishing House site by more than \$800,000. "Our Presiding Bishop is a tough negotiator," declared Bishop Winbush, who serves as Chairman of the General Board's Publishing Commission. "The City of Memphis knows it now!"

Bishop Winbush along with Bishop W.W. Hamilton, Secretary of the General Board, and Bishop Nathaniel W. Wells, Jr., whose area of responsibility is Membership Services; were appointed by the Presiding Bishop to find a new location for the publishing ministry of COGIC. Bishop Winbush then assigned Dr. David Hall, Sr., CEO of the Publishing House, as the point person for finding and negotiating the terms for a new site.

Dr. Hall had been given the approval to move forward with making an offer on the old Universal Life Insurance property.

The Universal site is located near the former Publishing House and it appeared to be the best solution in settling a crisis concerning the relocation of COGIC's printing arm.

Meanwhile, our Presiding Bishop was prayerfully considering what other ideal sites for the Publishing House might be available. One day, he was reminded about the old B&M Printing Company. Bishop Patterson had been a customer of B&M and was familiar with the building. He was convinced that God had provided just what the publication ministry needed.

A 70,000 square foot facility that was built exclusively for a printing enterprise and it was available. "The building had been idle for two years," Presiding Bishop Patterson recalled. "It was just sitting here, waiting on the Church Of God In Christ to take it."

CEO Hall echoed the Presiding Bishop's sentiments concerning the purchase. "The old Publishing House had only 29,000 square feet," Dr. Hall said. "We now have 70,000 feet which allows us to expand our services and product line."

Later, Dr. Hall would lead a tour of the Publishing House and show the attentive audience how he had implemented services and purchased equipment designed to take advantage of the additional space. He guided the delegation to a new Folder and Binding equipment, and explained how this machinery would allow the Publishing House to print books in-house.



Dr. Hall said the old facility did not have room for such equipment, and a lot of the work had to be outsourced. He then proceeded to fold and bind a dummy book for the group. At the end of the tour, the beaming CEO presented personal business cards to all the Members of the General Board.

The presentation was Dr. Hall's way of demonstrating a service that is part of a new product line now being offered by the Publishing House. An in-house design team known as the Ph.D.s is on hand to custom make letterhead, business cards, bulletins and programs for all customers of the COGIC Publishing House.

In addition, the Ph.D.s can design posters, visitation folders, church history booklets, envelopes and invitations. All of the attendees to the Dedication and Grand Opening service received a custom made bag that contained samples of the new products now being offered by the Publishing House and its Design Team.

"Our leader, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson provided the church with this magnificent building from which to conduct the print and publication ministry for the denomination," Dr. Hall said. "Through the guidance of the General Board and its Special Commission, the publishing ministry has made this transition. Through equipment acquisition and training of new employees it is now possible to achieve higher productivity and profitability. I thank you for using COGIC curriculum and products."

Dr. Hall also explained to the audience that additional equipment would be purchased that would allow the Publishing House to do more multi-color printing. He added that the product line will eventually include such products as COGIC T-Shirts, Caps, Towels and other logo items.

Both Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson and the Chairman of the Publishing Commission, Bishop Winbush, commended Dr. Hall for his creativity and effective leadership. The Presiding Bishop added because of the exemplary manner in which Dr. Hall with the oversight of Bishop Winbush had managed the renovation, relocation and expansion of services at the Publishing House this would probably be the permanent site of the denomination's printing ministry. He indicated there had been some initial thought about having a temporary site and

then later building a permanent publishing facility near Historic Mason Temple, after acquiring additional property.

He noted because of all the comprehensive work done at 2500 Lamar, the Publishing House had found its final earthly location. "Our next step up will be on to heaven," Presiding Bishop Patterson said. He added that in the future, the Publishing Board probably would have an office building erected near Historic Mason Temple. He told the audience more information about the Publishing Board's building would be forthcoming after his administration presents his Master Plan for the National Church to the General Assembly in November.

All the members of the General Board who were present at this historic event agreed with Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson that the current location and expansion of services for the Publishing House brings the printing ministry of our church into the 21st century. The General Board members also realized that it was the visionary leadership of our Presiding Bishop that brought this milestone in COGIC's publishing ministry to fruition.

Bishop Winbush noted the dedication of the Publishing House was just another example of how Presiding Bishop Patterson's administration had ushered in "a new era of leadership." The Chairman of the Publishing Commission added that the Presiding Bishop had "led us into the 21st century" and this century would "have to reckon with the publishing ministry of the Church Of God In Christ."

He also recalled how the Publishing House had grown from its humble beginning in 1966. "We just had a station wagon that belonged to (the First Presiding Bishop) Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr., and we used a building that was across the street from (Pentecostal Temple COGIC) his church." He then recalled how the late, Bishop A.B. McEwen advised him, "Boy we are going to build (the current Administration wing of Historic Mason Temple) you a building." From the basement of that facility Bishop Winbush engineered the

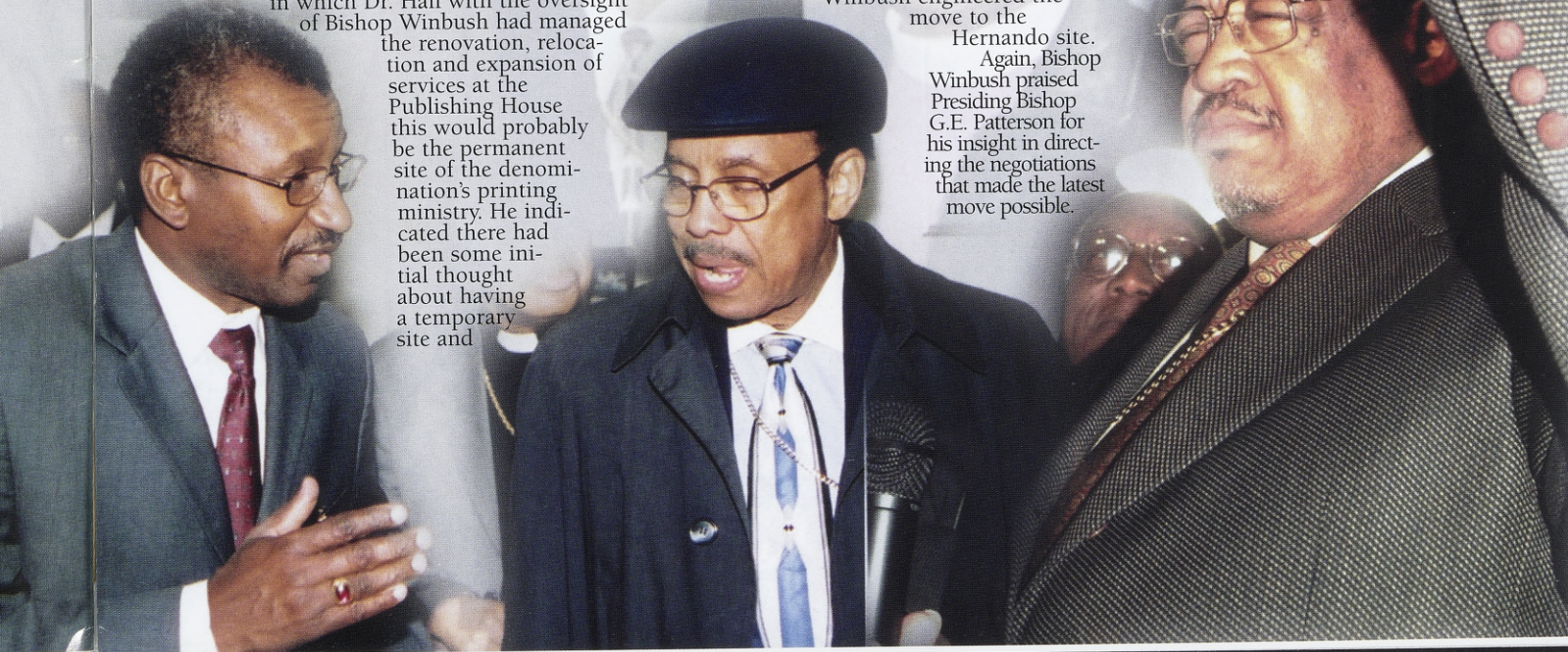
move to the
Hernando site.
Again, Bishop
Winbush praised
Presiding Bishop
G.E. Patterson for
his insight in directing
the negotiations
that made the latest
move possible.

"I can honestly say that our Presiding Bishop didn't leave (the Relocation Committee) us to fend for ourselves," Bishop Winbush said. "He was there for us...even in the snow. You see today, but many of you didn't see our yesterday. If you could see our yesterday, then you would rejoice with us for today."

Second Assistant Presiding Bishop J. Neaul Haynes said it was his pleasure to serve "the greatest leader of the greatest church at a great time (military victory in Iraq) in our country." Bishop Haynes added that he felt like "a glorified spectator" at the special observance. General Board Secretary Bishop W.W. Hamilton thanked God for giving COGIC a leader of "inspiration, insight and vision." Bishop Hamilton noted in his Dedication Prayer that God had worked through the Presiding Bishop to elevate the publishing ministry "to this point and this place...to speak to the needs of a dying world." Relocation Committee Member, Bishop Nathaniel W. Wells, Jr., observed that he felt, "blessed of the Lord to have this privilege in history." He lauded the Presiding Bishop and thanked Bishop Winbush for his effective leadership in his role as Chairman of the Publishing Commission. He stated it is because of effective leadership that the saints are witnessing "this zenith in our publishing ministry."

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson rejoiced in the Lord with the General Board and all the individuals gathered at the Dedication and Grand Opening. He clearly took the accolades in stride.

"There is nothing like serving the Church Of God In Christ," our Chief Apostle observed. "It is a new experience consistently."



Bishop JERRY L. MAYNARD

CHIEF OF STAFF FOR PRESIDING BISHOP G. E. PATTERSON AND
JURISDICTIONAL PRELATE FOR THE TENNESSEE FOURTH

By Calvin L. Burns

A pastor, teacher, scholar, author and visionary; meet Bishop Jerry L. Maynard, the Chief of Staff for Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson. A native of Indianapolis, Indiana, Bishop Maynard knew in 1958 that the Call of God was upon his life. "I felt the Lord had shown me what it was He wanted me to do with my life," Bishop Maynard recalled in a recent interview with *The Whole Truth*. "The Lord also revealed to me how He would equip me to help others with their lives." Two years into the ministry of the brilliant young Elder, it became apparent to him that God was preparing him for the pastorate. "When you read Ephesians 4:6 it certainly depicts particularly those things that God wants us to do and how the body of Christ is to grow. I knew from those scriptures that my role would be that of a pastor and teacher," Bishop Maynard reminisced.

God has indeed been faithful in preparing this multi-gifted leader for his various duties. Today, he serves as Senior Pastor at Pentecostal Tabernacle COGIC in Nashville, Tennessee and Prelate for the Tennessee Fourth Jurisdiction. Bishop Maynard is also a noted author. His latest work, *Maximize Your Potential*, is designed to enlighten Christians on how to implement God's empowerment in every aspect of their lives.

In his role as Chief of Staff for Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, Bishop Maynard's responsibilities include serving as Chairman of the following National annual meetings: Leadership Conference, Holy Convocation and the April Call Meeting. Bishop Maynard used the Leadership Conference which is held in January, to illustrate how he assists the Presiding Bishop and the General Board in preparing informative and inspiring sessions for the saints.

"The Presiding Bishop and the General Board determine policy and direction for the Church Of God In Christ," Bishop Maynard explained. "My job is to work with Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson and

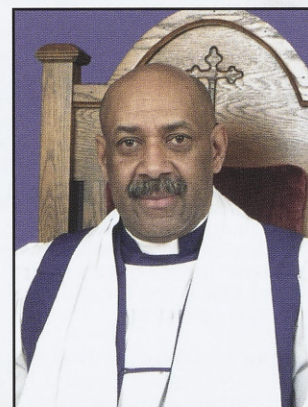
the General Board to ensure that the day-to-day operations of the Church Of God In Christ, where ever they may be, are carried out in accordance to that direction and policy. The focus of the Leadership Conference is the development of leaders within the Church Of God In Christ. My responsibility is to make sure that the instructors are discussing leadership, and that they have the materials that will reinforce those policies and directions from the Presiding Bishop and the General Board."

Bishop Maynard noted the Leadership Conference has the dual role of instructing and training individuals who serve as leaders in our church along with offering insight on how to effectively minister in the 21st century. Additionally, the Conference is aimed at having COGIC on the cutting edge of ministry for the years to come.

"We have to prepare ourselves for the future," he said. "Then, we must also address the problems of today. The only effective way that I feel this can be done is by training people who are in leadership positions. The more prepared our people are, the easier it is for the vision (of the Presiding Bishop and General Board) to be accomplished."

The stately and dapper Chief of Staff observed that a major problem for many institutions the size of COGIC is the inability of the membership to catch the vision of the leadership. He said to overcome that problem there must be effective communication from the leadership and greater participation from the workers of the harvest.

"The vision can be in the minds of the leaders who develop policy and strategy, but often, it doesn't filter down to the workers of that organization," Bishop Maynard said. "The workers of this organization are the Jurisdictional Bishops, Superintendents, Pastors, Elders, Supervisors, Missionaries, etc. So, then, if



the message (vision, policy, direction) is not conveyed to them from us then they will not participate. In order for this church to arrive at the level of professional sophistication that it should be – we have to become more participatory. More people need to be involved in what we do.

Bishop Maynard is keenly aware of the fact that Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson is an effective communicator who has been highly successful in uplifting people from every segment of society through his ministry. The Chief of Staff noted that the Presiding Bishop already has his hands on the pulse of the entire membership of COGIC, and he is confident that the vision God has given Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson is inclusive. In fact, it comes as no surprise to Bishop Maynard that Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson is already being recognized for guiding COGIC to a higher level of spirituality and national prominence.

A product of COGIC, Bishop Maynard first met the Presiding Bishop when they were both teenagers. Although they had been introduced through mutual acquaintances, they did not become friends until 1992. That was the year they talked in-depth after Bishop Patterson came to Atlanta, Georgia to celebrate the home-going of Bishop J. Howard Dell, who served as Jurisdictional Prelate for Northern Georgia and pastor of Christ Temple COGIC, where Bishop Maynard (then Elder Maynard) was a member at that time.

"I knew upon impact that God had shown himself in the life of Bishop G.E. Patterson," Bishop Maynard said. "God has equipped Bishop Patterson extremely well to carry out the vision that He has given him for the Church Of God In Christ as well as to implement the mission that He has given for the church."

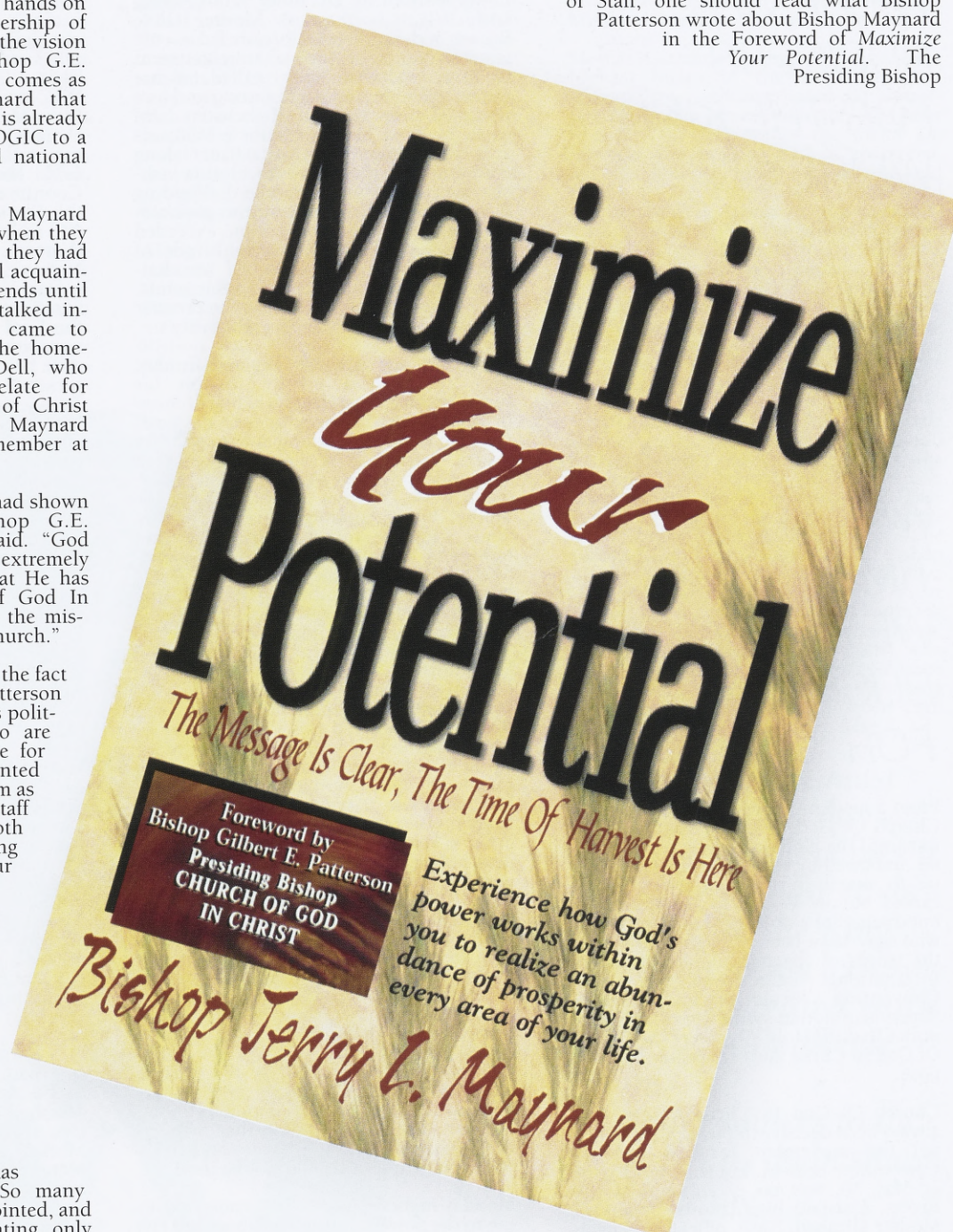
Bishop Maynard is not in awe of the fact that Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson has received kudos from various political and religious leaders who are commending our Chief Apostle for leading COGIC to unprecedented achievements in just his first term as Presiding Bishop. The Chief of Staff is convinced that God has both anointed and appointed Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson to lead our church at this time.

"It (the achievements of Bishop Patterson's administration) does not come as a surprise to me because the anointing is upon him not only as an administrator, but as a preacher as well, and of course, Bishop Patterson is quite a people person," Bishop Maynard said. "No, I am not surprised because within that anointing I believe lies the scope of the work that God has given our Presiding Bishop. So many times we feel that people are anointed, and then we isolate the word anointing, only to say 'okay he has been given the ability.' But for what reason does he have ability?"

Bishop Maynard added that God has given our Presiding Bishop a special anointing to: "Take the church from its dormancy to a level of respectability within the United States of America and the world." He also believes that God has uniquely qualified Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson to bring COGIC into a realm that: "Impacts the lives of men and women irrespective of lifestyles and denominations."

After concluding his views and convictions about our Chief Apostle, Bishop Maynard then shed further light regarding his duties as Chief of Staff. "My function is to satisfy all areas of administration that were hereto fore the Presiding Bishop's," he advised *The Whole Truth*. He explained that included in those duties is the responsibility of coordinating the activities of all appointed officials of COGIC.

To gain additional insight on the high caliber of leadership that Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson was looking for in his Chief of Staff, one should read what Bishop Patterson wrote about Bishop Maynard in the Foreword of *Maximize Your Potential*. The Presiding Bishop



Florida Hosts 53rd Annual Women's International Convention

HOLY WOMEN

ON BUSINESS FOR THE KING

By Glenda Williams Goodson

WE'RE ON
BUSINESS
FOR THE KING
WE'RE ON
BUSINESS
FOR THE KING
THE KING'S
BUSINESS
REQUIRES HASTE
WE DON'T HAVE
TIME TO WASTE
WE'RE ON
BUSINESS
FOR THE KING!

From a modern historical perspective, the Church Of God In Christ has incredibly impacted the globe as decades of visionaries, unbowed by worldly schemes, continue to march forward in their destiny carved out by God. To emphasize the importance of the King's business to any who may have been slacked at any time, the words of the 53rd Annual Women's International theme song, written by Convention President and General Supervisor Mother Willie Mae Rivers, gave notice that the Holy Women of the Church Of God In Christ must return to their purpose.

Church Of God In Christ women have always been decisive in their efforts to propel the movement forward and the Convention held in Tampa, Florida May 26-May 30, was no exception. Mother Rivers, Assistant International Supervisor Mother Elizabeth Nash, official staff members Mother Gertrude Young, Mother Artaska King, Mother Barbara McCoo

Lewis assisted by Dr. Juliet White, along with WIC Coordinators Mother Olive Brown and Carolyn Galbreath led a core team for a time of spiritual enlightenment in Tampa. Mother Rivers called for her executive cabinet to begin fasting and as a result of nine months of lockstep hard work by host Bishop Matthew Williams and Host Supervisor Alberta Baker along with a unified showing from Florida bishops and supervisors, prompted Presiding Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson to proclaim that the Women's Convention exceeded expectations. There was a multitude of unforgettable events designed to challenge, refresh and re-energize the saints. The following is a look inside the premier women's convention in America today.

Pre-conference sessions began Saturday, May 24, with a private session for Jurisdictional Supervisors where half those in attendance were neophytes to the position. On Monday morning at 8am, Mother Rivers hosted a session for younger women less than 45 years old. The room, set to hold 350, was filled over capacity. Mother Rivers conducted a two-way dialogue with the young women "who are hungering for direction" on how to conduct a holistic approach in the King's business. Poignantly, Mother Rivers promised, "When I am gone and others are gone, we'll have a strong Women's Department."

In addition to the convention, the Executive Women were the host of the 2003 Leadership Conference, where more than 3,000 gathered this year. Attendees were delighted to hear words of encouragement from the beautiful and gracious First Lady of the Church Of God In Christ, Mother Louise Patterson who shared that women must trust God and leadership in order to keep the important kingdom business moving forward. A panel of leading women led by Mother Rivers, Mother Edith McGrew, Mother Geraldine Miller, Mother Barbara McCoo Lewis, Missionary Diane Bogan, and Mother Madge Cyars then fielded questions and gave concrete answers concerning the work of the supervisor, missionaries, the revised *Women's Handbook* and other pertinent issues. For example, one woman asked what should be the response when women ask her if they have to get licensed by the Church when they can run revivals or meetings without them. On a cautionary note, Mother Rivers responded that women should have the right attitudes and those who don't support should not be used.

Monday night's musical was a rousing tribute to the power of the Holy Ghost and His influence in changing the lives of women and men without reservations. Just as the

prophet called for the musicians before uttering his prophetic message to Israel; our praise leaders through the ministry of music ushered in the spirit of worship that night. According to Mother Ford and WIC music leaders Regional Coordinator Steve Marshall did a wonderful job. "The Women's Chorus staff said this is the first region that has ever given itself like this," said Mother Ford. WIC Music Coordinator agreed, "Everyone said that the Floridians have yielded themselves," and added "Mother Ford was at her best." Women and children go together and National Sunshine Band President Dr. Lytia Howard gathered almost 200 Sunbeams to open the musical singing for the Lord and Mother Rivers. Next there were liturgical dancers who were waving a state flag for each of the fifty states; as the presence of God hovered over the auditorium. National Choir President Professor Iris Stevenson always gets premier and anointed talent to bless the saints and this convention was no exception. Lashon Pace and Donnie McClurkin were the special guest artists. Sister Pace led delegates in worshipping and bowing before the Lord while singing "O Thank You" and Mother Rivers, the Chief of Staff for Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson --Bishop Jerry Maynard, and other church leaders stood to their feet, clapping their hands as Evangelist Dorinda Clark Cole joined Pastor McClurkin singing "Thank You Lord for All You've Done for Me." All enjoyed the Spirit of the Lord as jurisdictional choirs blessed the hearts of the people.

Mother Elizabeth Nash has served under each National Mother except Mother Lizzie Robinson and has only missed two Women's Conventions since 1950. Greeting the delegates she stated, "I met the first train when it rolled into the Los Angeles Union Station" and added that because of the leadership of Mother Rivers, "the lady for the day, this is one of the best conventions we've had...I didn't miss a day or a night. Before we got to the convention we were praying and the Lord came in. Mother Baker and all the (Florida) Mothers have been outstanding."

International Marshall Mother Barbara McCoo Lewis and Assistant International Marshall Dr. Juliet White moved the services forward in a spirit of excellence. Mother Lewis indicated that the Banner March is a colorful and moving symbol, and that the auxiliaries, units and bands are the strength of the Department of Women. "We are standing with you and Bishop Patterson, Mother Rivers," she said. On the first night (of three nights) as

the choir sang, "This is the Church Of God In Christ," Supervisor McCoo Lewis, Dr. Juliet White, Mother Emily Bram Bibby and Mother Elizabeth Crooms identified those marching. Co-Coordinator Supervisor Olive Brown and Supervisor Carolyn Galbreath led the marchers with the Women's International Convention banner. Says Dr. White, "These marches are representative of what the Church Of God In Christ embodies as a ministry and (the banner march) allows the masses to understand that these ministries are alive in our church." Each night auxiliaries such as YWCC, Supervisors, (Floridian Greeters distributed oranges to the delight of the crowd!), exotic locales such as Trinidad, Barbados and Jamaica, the Bishop's Wives Circle, and the Usher Department led by President Willie Cook who has been ushering for over forty years (it's a job!) The Germany delegation (Supervisor Stella Watson) exhibited the unity of the jurisdiction as more than twenty auxiliaries, units and bands marched in the processional.

Every person involved, such as Dr. Vernard Johnson, who was successful in obtaining the services of members of the Tampa Symphony Orchestra, seemed to exceed expectations in making the Tampa event one to remember. In fact, Dr. Lewis reported that a clerk at a department store shared positively with saints from Ohio

that (this convention) had a tremendous impact on the city.

General Board Secretary Bishop W.W. Hamilton, stating "Bishop G.E. Patterson is God's chosen leader in this critical time," presented COGIC's Chief Apostle. In greeting the women, the Presiding Bishop said he was truly blessed of God to be among the saints in the greatest church body in the world today, the Church Of God In Christ. "It's been 53 years since Mother Coffey organized the Women's International Convention and not in my wildest dreams I would have imagined that the Lord would lift me to the height of Chief Servant," he said. Stating that May 27 was the day 36 years ago that the former Louise Dowdy became his wife, he explained that they would not miss the women's convention for anything. Their plans for their anniversary celebration would be after the WIC. "I have watched the progress...and in the first convention you had red cards...we're still struggling to get (those attending) the Memphis convocation registered," he said.

Along with the Chief Apostle other ecclesiastical luminaries attending were General Board members Second Assistant Presiding Bishop J. Neaul Haynes, the former Presiding Bishop Chandler Owens, Bishop P.A. Brooks, Assistant General Board Secretary Bishop Roy Winbush,

Bishop Nathaniel Wells, and Bishop O.T. Jones. National leaders in Tampa for the next round of Constitutional Convention meetings coordinated by COGIC Chief of Staff, Bishop Jerry Maynard, joined rows and rows of bishops who gathered with the women to celebrate the Lord and hear the Gospel message presented by Mother Rivers. Among those were Board of Bishops Chairman Bishop L.T. Walker, COGIC General Secretary Elder A.Z. Hall, COGIC Men's Conference President Supt. Darrell Hines, Public Relations President Bishop Adrian Williams, Pastors and Elders Chairman Elder Derrick Hutchins, Publishing Board CEO Dr. David Hall, and Missions President Bishop C.L. Moody.

Mother Gertrude Young, who heads the highest board in the Department of Women, the Executive Board did an outstanding job in her introduction of Mother Rivers. "She personifies the theme *On Business for the King* and is appointed, anointed and positioned...a leader beyond reproach." Dr. Anna Crockett Ford dual role as the WIC transportation coordinator and head of the Women's Convention choir does not diminish either. Each night the choir, under the direction of WIC Music Coordinator T. Lynn Smith, gave tribute to God as they sang under the anointing of the Holy Ghost. Before Mother Rivers spoke Rosalind Jones of New Mexico and the one and only Bettye Nelson of Houston led "He Cares."

Church Of God In Christ women are some of the best dressed women in the world and on Mother Rivers' official night the delegates were arrayed in white attire. After praying Mother Rivers sang, "They Belong to God, all the glory, honor praise and all things, they belong to God." She thanked God for the hard work of Bishop Matthew Williams and the Florida host bishops. She thanked God for the leader He has given to us, Bishop G.E. Patterson and also her Assistant International Supervisor Mother Elizabeth Nash who has been loyal and stood by her six years she has been supervisor. She then sang the convention theme song that the Lord gave her "On Business for the King."

*Jesus said that I must
work while it is day
For when night comes it
would be too late to do
business for the King!
Come on saints let's
unit our force and work
for Jesus with all our
might,
Bringing sinners to the
light, Let us do business
for the King.*

One true sign of leadership is the ability to



Mother Willie Mae Rivers, International Supervisor of Women

Excerpts from the Official Address: "The King's Business"

by
Women's International Convention President
Mother Willie Mae Rivers

Observing delegates as they sat in rapt attention as she spoke, *The Whole Truth* thought it wise to share a few excerpts from her message with our readers. This video is a must for every library and you may purchase from COGIC Videos.

On partnering with the King:

Become acquainted with him; Have a personal relationship (Acts 1:4-8)

On living lives aligned with the King and the business of winning souls:

"Can our lives say to those in need look on us?"

Many need a lift. The King's business requires that we give others a lift. Soul winning – if we don't redirect we're not on business for the king. How often do we hear a good testimony? It will lift someone up.

On the importance of working with the auxiliaries and bands in unity:

We need a prayer band. If we're going to build a strong department we need unity. We don't need division. Division hinders the business of the King. We need to pray, sing and work together.

On witnessing and sharing the good news of the gospel:

We have a job to tell others that Jesus is alive.

You don't need credentials to do that. Women, one of our tasks is to worship then stay at the feet of Jesus. You don't need a degree. Just go and tell what Jesus has done for you.

Women's we're empowered to do business for the King.
(Matt 28:1, 5, 7)

persuade followers to Catch the Vision. In her message, "The King's Business"

(1 Sam. 1:8, Luke 2:44-48; John 9:4), Mother Rivers did an exemplary job in calling the holy women to think through and get on with the critical business of winning, nurturing and developing souls.

On Wednesday night the Mayor of Tampa, Pam Iorio, members of the Tampa and St. Petersburg city councils, TV personality and co-pastor of the Church Without Walls Paula White and others greeted the saints. Chief Bennie R. Holder of the Tampa Police Department assured delegates of his department's commitment to make the city as safe as possible while the convention graced the city.

Then Missionary Romanetha Stallworth of Kentucky First built upon the theme the Lord gave to Mother Rivers declaring to all that "we must protect the doctrine of the Church Of God In Christ!" Bishops and others wept as the Holy Ghost used her to remind listeners of the sacrifices made by COGIC pioneers members who endured hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. "We must not be silent but stand against

false doctrines....so that our children's children will have a legacy (of holiness)," she said.

*Let's work for Jesus with
all our might Working
morning, noon and
night, reaping the har-
vest for this is right Let's
do business for the King.
He's calling the young
for they are strong;
Please don't wait too
long to bring sinners to
God's Throne, we're on
business for the King!*

The souls of humanity are precious. In an aggressive attempt to impact the city The Women's International Convention Crusade team seemed to take pains to remember the minutiae of details to plant lasting seeds. International YPWW Chairlady and nation evangelist, Joyce Rodgers was tasked to lead a group into the parks to witness and on the first day 38 souls were won. Others visited area nursing homes sharing the love of Christ with those who are sometimes neglected or forsaken. Business and Professional Women's Federation President Fran Miller presented Florida's Alpha House and as well as the Family Enrichment Center with substantial monetary donations. There was also a men's class session led by Elder Hammonds.

It's easy to see how saints do what they do when testimonies are heard of the life changing power of Christ. Although the pace was high-speed, time was made for women to testify of cancers being healed, the Lord saved others from accidents where many said they should have died but God said "not now." Delegates also heard echoes from the large constituency represented of the foreign fields such as Nigeria, Bahamas, South Africa, the Philippines (Bishop Foto's daughter was returned home safely from kidnapping), and Mother Mary Kennedy of the Republic of the Congo. In that country mothers are only eating three meals per day consisting of corn mush. Dr. Dorothy Exume pioneer missionary to Haiti but now slowing in her strides, spoke eloquently of the work the Lord gave to her over forty years ago.

Prayer lines were set up during the daily 6:30 p.m. radio outreach broadcast which has been going on for 53 years and led by Dr. Anna Crockett Ford. A history-making event also stirred the assembly when Mother McCoo Lewis announced "call your friends and relatives back home to join us as these services come to them on the Internet at www.cogicwomensdept.com." Each day the saints were blessed to hear the voice of experience where pioneering women such as Evangelist Drusilla Carter, who ran revival for many of the current General Board member's fathers, gave testament that women today can build upon the foundational work of former warriors to win more souls for the kingdom. (Dr. C.C. Owens presented Mother Carter a plaque from the Religious Workers Guild). Mother Theda Wells, Supervisor Ruby Earven, Mrs. Doris Edge, Supervisor Edith McGrew and others did an outstanding job in presenting the highlights from the earlier days of COGIC's women's ministries. Sister Brenda Ozen of the Jones Memorial COGIC in Beaumont, Texas who came for a word from God and direction stated "this meeting is enlightening...knowing that (leaders like these) are still holding to the standard of holiness and want us all to go back...(is comforting)."

After Morning Prayer led by National Prayer Leader Evangelist Frances Kelley Mother Rivers presented the women with practical gems from her fount of wisdom in a *Spiritual Evangelistic Emphasis*. Later, she conducted open forums for daughters to ask questions and receive clarity on important issues. During one session

Missionary Connie Smith, President of the Overcomer's Unit passionately explained the necessity for a haven for those women emerging from situations such as drug addiction as they learn to walk in the new life of holiness.

Speakers such as Mother Dorothy Walden and Missionary Barbara Heard brought rousing messages. "We can accomplish His business...but He does not give us gifts to show off but...to effectively complete the task," said Missionary Heard.

It has been said that the Women Convention never leaves a city owing any outstanding debts and because of the Supervisors and Bishops of Florida the City of Tampa was no exception. Supervisor Olive Brown presented the leaders who contributed to the work of the Women's Ministries as follows -

Western Florida - \$10,000

Southwest Florida - \$5,000

Florida 6th - \$8,000

Florida #1 - \$5,000

Florida Central #2 - \$5,000

Northwest Florida - \$5,000

Eastern Florida - \$10,400

Florida Southwest - \$20,000

And although her home state of South Carolina was not an official host Bishop Johnny Johnson (Mother Rivers Jurisdictional Bishop) donated \$3,000 and the official printer for the Women's Department, Mr. Frazer Windless, President of A-1 Printing in Memphis, donated \$5,000. Mr. Windless is an African-american and he is a strong supporter of COGIC. In addition, Mr. Windless has earned a reputation for producing quality goods and excellent services. Mother Rivers, overwhelmed by the unified support of the eight Florida bishops and supervisors, gave them kudos. "Florida has worked so hard...I don't know what else (Bishop Matthew Williams) could do but he's not a knee baby but a grown man," she said drawing laughter. She said bishops such as Pop Cohen, made her cry with joy. "I can't repay but God can."

Prior to the convention the Lord had given Mother Rivers vision of a power surge that the saints would experience in each setting. Time and again the Spirit unleashed a surge of power confirming her prophetic utterance as He saved, healed and delivered (some minister's wives received the Holy Ghost during this Convention/Crusade). Even as Supervisor Maria Gardner Thomas received the offering and exhorted the saints to show gladness in their giving by running to give their offering people returned to their seats amidst those dancing in the aisles.

On Thursday night, the one and only Madam Emily Bibby brought the message. Introducing her Dr. Lewis stated that Madam Bibby "epitomizes the heritage of the Church Of God In Christ in her standard as a trailblazer. She has been saved seventy-seven years and attended Page Normal where Professor Coleman (Dr. Lewis' grandfather) was principal. She was licensed as a girl of 14 by Texas State Mother Hannah Chandler and has been blessed to serve every National Mother. Mother Rivers did not want her to stand and she sat and taught the women.

At 86, she's still in the war influencing all of the righteous to continue to live a holy life. Thirty from the Mt. Airy Baptist Church accompanied Mother Bibby as red card delegates. Her message included much sound advice as explained "They didn't turn me over by myself," and admonished all to "stop getting saved tonight and saying God called you tomorrow." Before proclaiming the gospel message, "If you know Him, Go Tell It," she sang "One Day at a Time" to the Amen of many. After the rousing message where she sometimes admonished (missionaries shouldn't go out without the anointing) while at other times took women to task (We've got too many stay at home saints...TV ministries are all right but they're ruining some of us. We're going right to hell looking at TV. It's not found in the Bible anywhere that says look at TV. It says forsake not to assemble yourselves.) The altar filled after the message with those seeking the Holy Ghost and Mother Rivers in an evangelistic anointing prayed for those seeking the Holy Ghost. After the service, so many were seeking the Lord that Mother Rivers declared that a tarrying service would be held the next morning. In the service approximately thirty persons received the Baptism in the Holy Ghost.

On Friday, a Convention Symposium was conducted by Mrs. Sylvia Law, CPA (Financial Planning), Dr. Gloria Johnson Rodgers (Health Awareness) and Attorney B J Warren (Legal Concerns). After the presentation of awards by the Women's Department National Public Relations Chairperson Madge Cyars, the Sunshine Band (Dr. Lytia Howard, Sunshine Band President, Mother Thelma Cotton, Purity Class President and Missionary LaBarbara Whitehead First Vice President) presented their program. The Sunshine Band marched in their yellow and black waving flags with children in front carrying the letters J-E-S-U-S. The Puritans sang beautifully.

Friday night the saints heard from their leader, Presiding Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson. Preaching about the need for the Holy Ghost, he said many times people think they have the Holy Ghost and they don't have it. "Bishop Patterson preached a profound message," said Missionary Mignon Walls of Great Lakes Second Jurisdiction, "and it made you think because it was a time for self-examination." Bishop Patterson wants the saints and everyone to realize that the Holy Ghost is not only given for individuals to speak in tongues but you must have power...it makes us live right...He's our guide and He's our teacher. After the mes-

sage many people cried out to the Lord as they made their way to the altar and the power surge of the Holy Ghost took over. Others went forth in the dance and the Spirit of the Lord illuminated the place.

By all accounts the women of the Church of God in Christ departed Tampa ready and equipped to do business for the King!

When our work on earth is done and we stand before His throne

We will hear Him say: "well done, you've been faithful to the end!"

Well done, well done, well done, well done, well done, well done!

Well done, well done, well done, well done, well done, well done!

For the King, For the King, For the King, For the King!

We're on business for the King!

We're on Business for the King!

We're on business for the King!

We're on Business for the King!

The new CD produced by Rivers of Melody Music may be purchased through the COGIC Bookstore.

continued from page 7

noted that it was an honor for him to support the latest work of Bishop Maynard.

"Because of his works, his commitment to God and the people of God, it is a privilege to introduce to you this work of my friend, Bishop Jerry L. Maynard," the Presiding Bishop writes. "Bishop Maynard has worked with me for many years in numerous capacities representing the Church Of God In Christ, and in organizing the annual Soul Winners Conference. I consider him an outstanding churchman, administrator, educator and a man of great integrity and discipline."

One would think that success and the desire to motivate others to be successful, is the key motivating force behind Bishop Maynard's writing of *Maximize Your Potential*. After all, he has been blessed with a storied career and he has the support and friendship of our internationally renowned Presiding Bishop. He grew up in the church and is highly educated.

So, there had to be an inspirational moment when he was overcome with joy; and while in this ecstatic state, he decided that he just had to write a book about being all that you can be in the Lord. That's it, right? Wrong! The motivational force behind the book is dealing with loss. We all have been there, the place of despair and despondency. At this point, we turn to the Lord for guidance. Often, the Lord activates the Holy Ghost and gives us a special word. Many saints can testify concerning the dynamics of such a situation. For Bishop Maynard, however, the testimony includes how God motivated him to start a series of sermons and lectures that would serve as the catalyst for him writing a book in 2002.

The year was 1981, and Bishop Maynard was in dialogue with the Lord. "I was one who had been at the top of his game, yet I had lost quite a bit," Bishop Maynard recalled. "One day I looked at what I had (after reviewing his loss) and thought how terrible it was. I began to reminisce about what I use to have and became despondent."

It was at this point that the Lord spoke to Bishop Maynard. The Chief of Staff spoke in a reflective tone as he recalled how God said to him: "Whatever you had amounts to nothing now. It's what you have left that you can build upon, and that's your potential."

Bishop Maynard's whole countenance illuminated as he recounted how he acted after that life altering experience. "From that moment on, I began to talk about *Maximize Your Potential*," he said. "It matters not who you use to be, it's who you are. You can have a fragment of anything and multiply it and it will increase. You can take a thousand times zero, which is your past, and multiply it - and it will not increase."

It was indeed a striking experience to note how such a highly educated person gave God the Glory for all knowledge and understanding. Bishop Maynard graduated from Ball State University with a BS in Psychology. He received both his Master's and his PhD in Psychology from the

University of Indiana. His wife, Dr. Mary T. Maynard, recently retired as the Deputy Superintendent of City Schools in Dekalb County Georgia. She now works with him full-time in the ministry at Pentecostal Tabernacle.

This is the message that Bishop Maynard shares with his flock at Pentecostal Tabernacle and his constituents of the Tennessee Fourth Jurisdiction. We are on earth to glorify God by allowing ourselves to be used as His instrument. It is just not enough to get an education or materials things, God must get the glory out of our lives—and He wants our lives to serve as a testimony for others (Revelation 12:11). Individuals must utilize the liberating Word of God and His salvation extended through Jesus Christ to truly maximize their potential. In fact, when you start applying that principle to your life he says, your influence will extend outside the four walls of the sanctuary. Once you realize what specific gift (s) and purpose that God has assigned to you, then, do not lose focus of the greater service and responsibility to be a light for those who are in the darkness of sin (Matt. 5:14, 1 Cor. 7:7).

Bishop Maynard notes that the congregation has taken the message to heart. Many of his members have returned to college and obtained their degrees. There have been promotions in the market place, new homes, cars and an overall improvement in the quality of life.

It is no wonder that the membership has grown from 143 to more than 3,000 during the nine years of Bishop Maynard's pastorate. In addition, Pentecostal Tabernacle has become a community focal point in the city of Nashville. With more than 80 auxiliaries, the church has structured a holistic ministry that reaches every segment of the community. Yes, Pentecostal Tabernacle is known as: *The Church where you can Maximize Your Potential*.

Meanwhile, the 58 churches that makeup Tennessee's Fourth Jurisdiction are also experiencing growth under the leadership of Bishop Maynard. One jurisdictional leader lauded the Prelate of the Tennessee Fourth Jurisdiction for being: "A visionary and anointed leader who has taken us to even a higher level of excellence." Several of the pastors noted how they have been blessed to enhance their work by drawing from Bishop Maynard's administrative expertise. Others stated that they were so enriched by reading *Maximize Your Potential* that they encouraged their congregations to put it on their "must read list."

Published by Word of Life Ministries, *Maximize Your Potential* has a retail price of \$14.99. You may also purchase a *Maximize Your Potential Workbook and Study Guide* for \$6.99. To order, you may contact the Church Of God In Christ Bookstore 285 South Main Street Memphis, TN 38103, phone (901) 525-4004, fax (901) 525-4001.



PRESIDING BISHOP GILBERT EARL PATTERSON

RECEIVES HONORARY DOCTOR OF DIVINITY DEGREE

On Saturday, May 10, 2003 the Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary and the Interdenominational Theological Center awarded Presiding Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson the Doctor of Divinity degree. This was a great honor because not only was our leader honored by his own (COGIC); but he was also recognized by an ecumenical consortium consisting of all the denominations that make up the Interdenominational Theological Center, namely: African Methodist Episcopal (AME), Baptist, Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME), Presbyterian, USA and United Methodist.

The commencement address was given by the new Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Interdenominational Theological Center, Bishop John Richard Bryant of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Recently, Bishop Bryant was highlighted in *Charisma* as the father of the neo-Pentecostal movement in the AME Church. What a wonderful meeting as two leaders of the two major African American denominations shared the stage. Remember, the Azusa Mission was purchased from a former AME congregation that birthed the modern day Pentecostal movement.

It was an exciting day on our campus in Atlanta when the Presiding Bishop arrived. Hundreds of people tried to speak to him and take pictures with him. And when he was called upon to give remarks, hundreds shouted from their seats in the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel on the campus of Morehouse College for Our Chief Apostle to "preach"! Bishop Patterson humbly accepted this honor that was bestowed on him and lauded the class of 2003 for their educational accomplishments. This class will always remember their commencement as they shared their day with the Presiding Bishop of the Church Of God In Christ.

Bishop Roy L H Winbush, Chairman of the Board for C.H. Mason Theological Seminary presented Bishop Patterson to the audience. Elder Arthur F. Mosley, Interim Dean of the C.H. Mason Theological Seminary hooded Bishop Patterson, and President Oliver J. Haney of the Interdenominational Theological Center presented Bishop Patterson with his degree. As Bishop Patterson approached the podium he received a standing ovation.

In addition, honorary degrees were conferred on Reverend Curtis A. Kearns, Jr., Director of National Ministries Division of the Presbyterian Church, USA and Dr. Josephus Roosevelt Coan, superintendent of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in South Africa. Also, of the eighty-eight students receiving degrees six of them were from C. H. Mason Theological Seminary. Rozario Slack received the Doctor of Ministry degree; Johnnie B. Porter of Tyler, Texas received the dual degrees of Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Church Music. The other four earning a Master of Divinity degree are Marva Williams of Knoxville, Tennessee; Shirley Jackson of Atlanta, Georgia; Beverly Gilyard of Atlanta, Georgia; and David Hall, Jr. of Memphis, Tennessee.

This Article was written by: Elder Quintin Robertson -



From left: Dr. Oliver J. Haney, Presiding Bishop G. E. Patterson, Dean Arthur F. Mosley, and Bishop Roy L. H. Winbush

CHURCH LEADERSHIP GATHERS IN MILWAUKEE; SETS PLANS FOR A VICTORIOUS FUTURE

by Scott A. Bradley

Milwaukee, Wisconsin – This historic Midwest City was the center of activity for the Church Of God In Christ April 28-May 3, as the Bishop's Conference, Pastors and Elders Council, and the Men's Conference all convened in succession at the Downtown Milwaukee Hilton Hotel.

With the banner *Equipping For Ministry* reflecting the theme of the Pastors and Elders Conference, many of the delegates described the speakers and presentations as "awesome" particularly after hearing Elder Rick Warren who spoke on the theme *A Purpose Driven Church*. Elder Warren reassured everyone that God has a purpose for each of us and that each of us should seek the vision of the church and work to its purpose. Many of his points inspired as well as caused many to re-evaluate their own lives and ask the life defining question -- "are we fulfilling God's purpose for our lives, and ministry?"

Among the other presenters and keynote speakers was the always powerful and dynamic Elder Willie James Campbell of Chicago, Illinois, Elder Michael Baker of Columbia, South Carolina, the very informative Dr. Leonard Lovett who spoke on *Ethics In Ministry* and was concluded by the Chairman of the Pastors and Elders Council, Superintendent Derrick W. Hutchins.

The 2nd Annual Men's Conference convened Thursday, May 1, with the uplifting theme *Men Perfecting Men*. The President of the Men's Conference, Pastor Daryl Hines, along with his very capable staff put together a tremendous and insightful agenda that ministered to the whole man in the areas of social, economical, physical, and spiritual building of manhood.

Attendees to the conference were favored with an anointed ministry of music presented by renowned recording artist Beebe Winan on Wednesday, and soloist/praise leaders Mark Harris and Ronald Pretlo. There were also financial seminars for pastors as well as for lay members along with instructions and programs for pharmaceuticals discounts and health benefits for the saints.

There were those who noted and commended Pastor Hines for his concern and insight on taking a holistic approach in ministering to the needs of men. Since being appointed by Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson to head the Men's Conference, Pastor Hines has focused on addressing issues that are designed to enhance a man's spiritual state while improving his health. One of the innovative programs implemented by our visionary president is the free diabetes and hypertension screenings that are being made available at our national meetings. Frequently at these meetings Pastor Hines has arranged for medical doctors to share their expertise on treating diseases that are adversely impacting African-American males.

The Rev. Brian Keith Williams spoke on Thursday night with great spiritual insight concerning men's struggles and overcoming shame. "I know what shame is all about," he told the gathering of about 3,000. "I was made to feel ashamed as a child because I was born out of wedlock and didn't have the same name as my siblings and didn't look like any of them." From the sermon entitled *Adam, Where Art Thou?* Pastor Williams' message gave hope to as many as heard him as afterward hundreds flocked to the altar for prayer.

President Hines delivered the official message Friday, and the concluding address on

Saturday morning came in the form of a dynamic message from Pastor Frank Anthon White from New York. These anointed men of God did indeed rock the house for Jesus.

In his message *The Recall of the BMW*, Pastor White talked from Genesis about the importance of Black Men Worshipping the Lord. He dealt with the fall of humankind because of the blatant disobedience of God's command not to eat from the forbidden tree. He noted how that in the Black community we are still having problems with the tree. For instance, the epidemic of drug addiction in our community is directly linked to various trees – because most narcotics originate from trees or other plants. The escalation of crime related to money; currency comes from paper and paper comes from trees. Alcoholism, many of the alcoholic beverages are aged or cured with wood, which of course, comes from trees. The powerful presentation concluded with an alter call, which resulted in scores of men being slain in the spirit.

The success of the Men's Week is yet another indication that the Church Of God In Christ is ascending to a higher level in the 21st century thanks to the insight and spirituality of its leaders. *The Whole Truth* is convinced that the Lord has blessed this body greatly in just 106 years, and looks forward to reporting on how COGIC is a pace-setter for religious fervor and innovation in the decades to come.

News Update

From Our Seminary;
CHARLES HARRISON MASON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Atlanta, Georgia – The Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary family celebrated another Founder's Day on February, 26-27, 2003. The keynote speakers this year were Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, Dr. David Hall, Sr. of Memphis, Tennessee and Evangelist Valerie Daniels-Carter of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The evening worship service was conducted at the Cathedral of Faith Church Of God In Christ; the Chapel Hour was held on campus and the banquet was at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel – Atlanta Airport.

Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary is part of a theological consortium known as the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC). The five other member seminaries are: Morehouse School of Religion (Baptist), Phillips' School of Theology (C.M.E.), Gammon Theological Seminary (United Methodist), Turner Theological Seminary (A.M.E.) and Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary (Presbyterian, USA).

Presiding Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson delivered a powerful and prophetic message on the topic of *Living by Faith* from Habakkuk 2:2-4, during the annual banquet. He stated that as we faced war and a poor economy that God did not promise us easy days, but God has promised us that He would never leave us.

Dr. David Hall, Sr., who serves as CEO of the Church Of God In Christ Publishing House, delivered a very inspiring message at the Convocation Chapel observance. Dr. Hall encouraged us with a message entitled *Peter, Paul and Me* from Mark 3:13-16 and Acts 9:13-16.

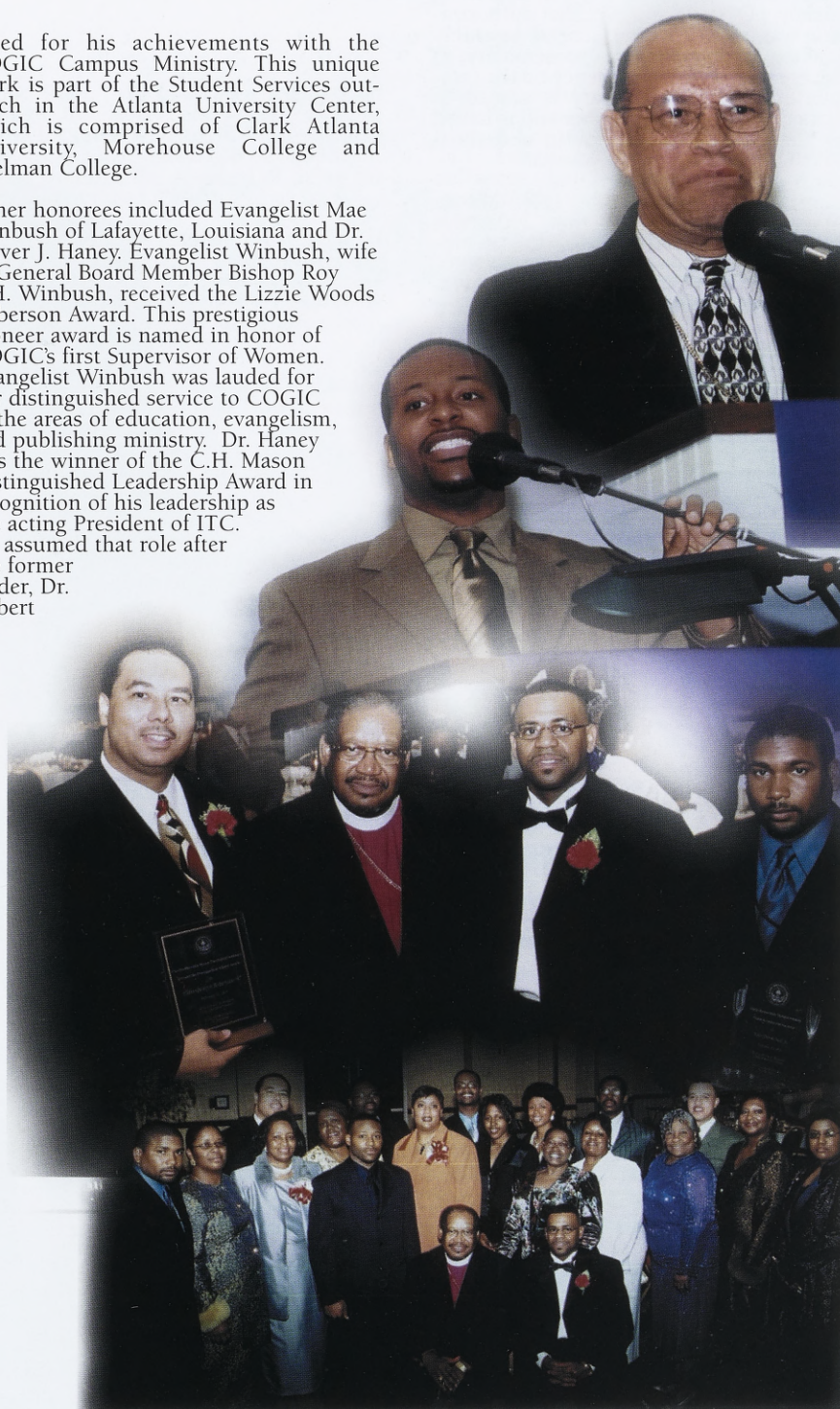
Attendees to the Wednesday evening worship were blessed by one of the dynamic women of God in our body, Evangelist Valerie Daniels-Carter of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, ministered mightily on the subject *God Will Not Let Your Faith Go Unanswered*, from Mark 5:22-42.

Elder David Hall, Jr., a native of Memphis and graduate of Tennessee State University, served as the Student Fellowship President this past school year and was honored as the Student of the Year. Elder Hall's administration was very successful this year in implementing the Late Monday Night Worship Service on campus, which brought students together for worship from all the denominations represented at the ITC.

Elder Quintin Robertson, Director for Admission and Recruitment at ITC, was the recipient of the 2003 Alumnus of the Year honor. Elder Robertson was recog-

nized for his achievements with the COGIC Campus Ministry. This unique work is part of the Student Services outreach in the Atlanta University Center, which is comprised of Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College and Spelman College.

Other honorees included Evangelist Mae Winbush of Lafayette, Louisiana and Dr. Oliver J. Haney. Evangelist Winbush, wife of General Board Member Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush, received the Lizzie Woods Roberson Award. This prestigious Pioneer award is named in honor of COGIC's first Supervisor of Women. Evangelist Winbush was lauded for her distinguished service to COGIC in the areas of education, evangelism, and publishing ministry. Dr. Haney was the winner of the C.H. Mason Distinguished Leadership Award in recognition of his leadership as the acting President of ITC. He assumed that role after the former leader, Dr. Robert



Franklin a noted scholar, theologian and COGIC product, accepted a position at Harvard University.

Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary is a graduate theological school designed to prepare men and women of faith for leadership in the church and society. Initial planning for our seminary began as early as 1965. The late Second Senior Bishop O.T. Jones, Sr., played a crucial role in leading the leadership of COGIC in those initial discussions. However, it was not until 1970, under the leadership of the late First Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr., that authorization was granted by the General Assembly making it possible for our seminary to become the sixth constituency on the campus of ITC. The seminary is named in honor of our founding father and is hailed as the first African American accredited Pentecostal seminary in America.

Several members of the C.H. Mason Seminary family noted that 2003 was indeed a milestone year for this distinguished institution. This year was significant because it marked the first anniversary of Dr. Haney serving as acting President at ITC. The personable Haney served with distinction as Dean of C.H. Mason Seminary for more than 27 years before accepting his current duties. In addition, Dr. Haney is the longest serving dean on the campus of ITC. In his role as Acting President, he has been successful in overseeing the administrative functions of the largest consortium of African American seminaries in the nation.

Dr. Haney's vacated dean post is being filled on an interim basis by Elder Arthur Mosley, an alumnus of the seminary. Elder Mosley also serves as Senior Pastor at Cathedral of Faith COGIC in Atlanta. He has done a tremendous job during his three semesters as dean and it is obvious that he has won the hearts of the students.

Highlights of Elder Mosley's tenure include gaining internship opportunities for our students. Last summer, we had students interning with Bishop Sedgwick Daniels at Holy Redeemer Institutional COGIC in Milwaukee and with Dr. Elton Amos at Old Landmark COGIC in Ft. Wayne. Other Bishops and Pastors who would like to provide opportunities for our seminarians should contact the Office of the Dean at Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia - (404) 527-7775.

This story was submitted by:
 Elder Quintin Robertson
 Director of Admission and Recruitment
 Doctor of Ministry Candidate
 Director of COGIC Campus Ministry in the
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Evangelist Frances Kelley: Standing In Victory Address to Christ Communion Continues Theme of; "Keeping It Real"

by Calvin L. Burns

Memphis, Tennessee - Members of the Young Women Christian Council at Christ Communion Temple Church Of God In Christ took center stage Saturday, April 5, as the official host of their church's Sixth Annual Benefit Banquet. More than 400 people attended this elegant, yet spiritual event which was held at the new Days Inn East (formerly the Wilson World Hotel). Evangelist Frances Kelley, International Prayer Leader for COGIC, was the keynote speaker. Her inspiring address clearly grasped the essence of the international ministry of our church while giving the audience an opportunity to see why she has earned a reputation around the world for being an anointed woman of God. The internationally acclaimed Memphian is a member of Pentecostal Temple Institutional COGIC where Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr., Chairman of the General Assembly and Prelate for the Tennessee Headquarters Jurisdiction, is pastor.

Christ Communion's pastor, Elder Freddie L. Thomas, Sr., also serves as State President of the Young People Willing Workers Department for the Tennessee Headquarters Jurisdiction where Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr., is the Jurisdictional Prelate. His wife, First Lady Ruby Thomas, works faithfully by his side. President Thomas designed the annual fundraiser to function as a venue of support for the various ministries of Christ Communion and as a celebration setting to praise God for both spiritual and numerical growth.

The visionary pastor and State YPWW President told *The Whole Truth* that the proceeds from this year's fundraiser would be used to fund the outreach arm of his ministry. Located at 1519 South Lauderdale, Christ Communion is in the heart of the Lauderdale Subs section of South Memphis. The predominately Black community is in need of redevelopment and an overall improvement of the quality of life for its residents.

Elder Thomas said his vision for ministry is aimed at impacting the community through the Gospel. He noted that God has placed Christ Communion in Lauderdale Subs to minister to the needs of the people. The more than 200 members at Christ Communion stand in full support of their minister, who has served as Chief Shepard there for nearly a decade.

"Our vision is taken from Mark 16:15, where Christ issues the Great Commission," Elder Thomas told *The*

Whole Truth. "We have been led by God through the Holy Spirit to be a Light House for those who are in spiritual darkness, to enhance economic development, and to improve the standard of living for the disadvantaged."

It was in this spirit that Christ Communion gathered at the new Days Inn East. The singing was inspirational, the fellowship was joyful, and the message by the keynoter was pure, traditional holiness.

Evangelist Kelley is a world renowned speaker, prayer leader and Gospel singer.

She structured her presentation on the Benefit Banquet's theme: *Standing In Victory*. She used the supporting scripture of 1 Corinthians 15:57-58, for her Biblical reference: *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ...*

Her powerful address greatly enhanced the sweet spirit of praise that was prevalent at the awesome community outreach event. The special worship celebration also provided the audience a microscopic view of the world-wide ministry of COGIC: Godly women playing a crucial role in our objective to -- live a Holy and separated life in this present world.



"If you are *Standing In Victory*, that means you've won," Evangelist Kelley declared. "If you've won, that means you had to fight! If you had to fight it wasn't cute! If you had to fight, it wasn't easy! If you had to fight, you had an enemy; and if you got the victory then you got...and got down with it!"

After concluding her exegesis of the theme, Evangelist Kelley turned her attention to the host of the event, the Young Women Christian Council. She noted that it has been her privilege to travel the globe expounding the Gospel. The highly respected prayer leader said she tells young women everywhere she goes to be the vessels of virtue that God has called them to be.

"We are the carriers," Evangelist Kelley emphatically stated to the women in the audience. "Men deposit, but we carry," she continued while the audience roared in approval. "We must deal with realism. I celebrated my 69th birthday (Friday, April 4) on yesterday; and I really don't have time to play games. I am old enough to get social security; so I am not hustling...and I am not going to waste your time."

Evangelist Kelley admonished the audience to be an effective witness for the Lord. She stressed the importance of truly possessing the Holy Ghost, and not just projecting an image. She noted that to completely comprehend the theme one must look at the writings of Apostle Paul to the Ephesians. She stated the focus of that Epistle is to: express the fullness of God in the earth, to equip and empower, and to prepare believers for spiritual warfare.

The multi-gifted evangelist/missionary encouraged parents to work with their children to ensure they receive a quality education. Evangelist Kelley then expressed her grave concerns about the educational experience of Black males and the negative impact that Rap music is having on their lives.

She challenged the women to have effective prayer lives and to support the ministry of their church by tithing. She compelled the entire audience to live a Holy Life in Christ Jesus, and not go through a pretentious life.

Evangelist Kelley warned that if we do not live a genuine life in Christ, we will be judged accordingly, and are bound for hell! She proclaimed to ministers and the laity alike; "don't waste our time, just keep it real."

She continued that train of thought by declaring: "If your ministry does not involve helping people, winning souls, to rescue the perishing, care for the dying; then we are just a bunch of Black folks (gathering at various functions) having fun! And we come, and have fun, and then go home and go to bed."

A review of Evangelist Kelley's accomplishments clearly shows that this dynamic woman of God puts her life where her message is. Divorced by her spouse, after being saved and filled with the Holy

Ghost, she kept her focus on being a godly mother. She went on to raise and educate her son, Elder George Kelley, to be a pioneer in the Television Morning News/Talk format in the Mid-South, and to have a successful career with American Airlines.

Countless thousands have been saved and uplifted through her ministry. In fact, Elder Thomas is one of many ministers whose life was impacted by Evangelist Kelley. The fiery evangelist/missionary recalled her role in leading the host minister to the Lord, and then commended him and the First Lady for having an event "to promote the work of the Lord while promoting the growth of the church."

Other highlights included a soul-stirring ministry of music presentation by Evangelist Earnestine Dillard, a critically acclaimed classical trained singer from Bixby, OK; an uplifting message in song by Cedric Thomas & Confession, a popular local Gospel choir; New Essence, another local Gospel group, also lifted the audience through the ministry of music; an Outstanding Service Award, was presented to one of the dynamic ministers at Christ Communion; and a marriage proposal.

Yes that is correct, a proposal of marriage. Marron Thomas, 28, an associate minister at Christ Communion, popped the question to his sweetheart, Teri Avery, 26. She did accept!

Minister Thomas told *The Whole Truth* he thought the Benefit Banquet was the ideal setting to ask for Sister Avery's hand in marriage. "The Young Women

Christian Council is sponsoring this year's banquet, and I could think of no better way to extol the virtue of Christian women," he said.

Elder Claude Hinds, an associate Elder at Christ Communion, was the recipient of the 2003 Outstanding Service Award. He lauded Elder Thomas for having a vision to minister to every aspect of humankind.

Both of the ministers said they had been inspired by Evangelist Kelley's message. They noted there seemed to be a resounding yes to the question she raised during her message: "Jesus died for the Church!" "Can we live for it?"



From the **AUTHOR'S** **PERSPECTIVE** *Seeing Potential*

by Scott A. Bradley

The late Senator Robert F. Kennedy once said, "Men see things as they are and ask, 'why?' I see things as they could be and ask - why not?" Hence, springs the hope of potential. In recent research for a sermon that I was about to preach on the subject of potential; I noted the way Jesus recruited his disciples, particularly the 12 apostles that would become closest to Him in His ministry. Surprisingly, they were not recruited on religious morals. According to the recorded Gospels they weren't necessarily faithfully religious men. In fact, some of them had backgrounds that might even be considered shameful. On one occasion when Jesus worked a miracle on behalf of Peter, the often outspoken disciple was both astonished and ashamed and he cried, "Depart from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!" (St. Luke 5: 4-8). Yet Jesus comforted Peter and told him that he would be a fisher of men. Jesus saw potential that Peter didn't even see for himself.

One of the most astonishing events of Jesus' ministry was when He called Levi the tax collector. (St. Matt. 9: 9-12). Tax collectors then, like now, were despised by the people, particularly since the taxes were imposed on the Jews by the *hated* Romans. Although the Romans imposed the taxes, it was Jewish agents who collected them. They made their commissions on what they collected and it was not uncommon for them to cheat the people and pocket the overage. Tax collectors were considered "sell-outs" by the Jewish citizens and were hated just as much as the Romans. Yet Jesus calls one of them into His elite 12. Levi was so excited that Jesus would call him until he invited Him to his home and gave him a feast. All of Levi's friends came, all of whom were considered just as dishonest as Levi. But Jesus sat and ate with them, much to the displeasure of the religious leaders. The indignant leaders raised the question, "why is Jesus eating with sinners?" How often has the same self-righteous arrogance by members of today's religious body robbed many sinners an opportunity to hear the Gospel message?

Jesus gladly shared with them. He saw the potential. He didn't condemn them for what they were, but tried to guide them to what they could be. On another occasion Jesus went to the house of a Pharisee. A prostitute sneaked into the house to see Jesus and with a broken heart proceeded to cry and wash His feet with her tears and dry them with her hair. The Pharisee's were flabbergasted. "If Jesus were a prophet he would have known what kind of woman this was," the Pharisee insisted. "She is a sinner," they proclaimed! Jesus took this opportunity to minister to the woman, and not to shame her, but he did rebuke the Pharisee's religious arrogance and self-righteousness. (St. Luke 7: 36-50).

Potential never gets discouraged over the present condition, but looks at the present tools and sees what can become in the future. Potential also means that work must be done to bring the situation to what it could be. While everybody else saw a heap of rubble, Nehemiah saw a great wall and worked to accomplish it (Neh. 2-5). How many of us have given up on our sons and daughters because they are presently in a bad condition? How many of us have focused on the present situations of life and have lost the motivation to work towards the future? How many of us have killed the future because we don't like the present? In every instance it is because we have been blinded to the potential because we are angry with the present or have become so disgusted that we cannot move forward. Remember that potential is not what it is (in our current state), but what it could be if we are willing to work towards it.

I have had the opportunity to preach in some of the prison systems in the state of Illinois. I have looked in the faces of the hardened, seen the front, the tattoos, the symbols and signs of the "organizations". How many of us have hidden behind false faces? I have heard the stories of what landed these young men and women in the hellish environment in the first place. But I have also learned that behind the

brick facade, and the harden face is a real person with pains, passions, and potential. That brother or sister may be incarcerated, but there is still potential for greatness.

Jesus sees the potential in every man and woman. He has future plans for all of us. All we have to do is say "YES" to our Lord. The journey to reaching your potential will not be easy. However, once you reach the peak of your potential, it will be rewarding.

*Elder Scott A. Bradley serves as Senior Pastor for Rivers of Life Inspirational COGIC in Romeoville, Illinois. He is the author of the provocative book, **Old Men's Dreams: Young Men's Visions**. He also wrote the critically acclaimed **Black Man: Cursed or Blessed?** He lectures annually in the Aim Conference, Leadership Conference and the Holy Convocation. To contact him for speaking engagements, please call (630) 235-4864.*

AGENDA EXPEDITED IN RECORD TIME AT 2003 APRIL CALL MEETING; ASSEMBLY PREPARES FOR

Church Of God In Christ, Inc.



International Constitutional Convention

by Calvin L. Burns

Memphis, Tennessee - Delegates and guests to the 2003 General Assembly April Call Meeting of the Church Of God In Christ were blessed to participate in or observe an informative and history-making session. The legislative branch of our church was scheduled to convene April 8-9 at Historic Mason Temple.

The eight-item agenda, however, was completed during the evening session of Tuesday, April 8. Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson was so pleased with the manner in which the agenda was expedited, that he entertained the thought of extending the session another two hours or so. Our Chief Apostle recalled how his father, the late Bishop W.A. Patterson, always held evening services until around 10 p.m. He noted that since the delegates would not be meeting on Wednesday, April 9, perhaps they could remain at Tuesday's session until midnight.

Amusement aside, our Presiding Bishop clearly reinforced the fact that innovation and keen spiritual insight are two strong aspects of his administration. Highlights of the 2003 April Call Meeting also indicated that COGIC has broken new ground over the past two-and-one-half years. The impressive milestones include: (1) A ratification of an amendment to the Constitution regarding delegates to the General Assembly. (2) An update on the Presiding Bishop's pledge of \$500,000 to the National Church. (3) An impressive report on how COGIC is going to play a crucial role in the redevelopment of Downtown Memphis in the area of the old Chisca Hotel.

In addition to the convening of the General Assembly, Commission Committee meetings were held to discuss the upcoming Constitutional Convention. The Commissions were separated into 10 different categories according to the current Constitution of COGIC. Those categories are: Article of Religion, Auxiliaries, General Board, Board of Bishops, Judiciary Board, Pastors/Elders, Trustee Board, Education, General Assembly, and Women's Department.

The sessions were held at the Downtown Memphis Marriott Hotel and the adjacent Cook Convention Center. They were

designed to prepare the delegates to the Constitutional Convention how to address formulating amendments to our Constitution in the areas of Maintenance, Structural, and Policy Issues. COGIC's Constitutional Convention will convene Sept. 16-18 in St. Louis, Missouri at the Adam's Mark Hotel.

Elder James Hunt, Vice-Chairman of the General Assembly, called the April 2003 session of the body to order at 10 a.m., Tuesday, April 8. Elder Hunt advised the General Assembly that he would be serving for Chairman Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr., who was ill and unable to get his release from the hospital. He commended Chairman Patterson for outstanding leadership and asked the delegates to pray for a speedy recovery for their leader.

He then asked General Assembly Chaplain, Elder Samuel Fluker, to lead the assemblage in a period of devotion. Elder Fluker functioned as a one-person praise team, as he led the delegates in an hour of song, praise, and testimony.

At 11 a.m., Vice-Chairman Hunt requested that the body stand and receive Presiding Bishop Patterson, and the General Board. After the arrival of the Presidium, Elder Hunt asked our Chief Apostle to lead the House in prayer.

"I realize that we are about to conduct the business of our church, but we should never lose sight of our heritage as a Holiness-Pentecostal denomination," Elder Hunt said. "In all that we do, our theme should remain 'Holiness Unto the Lord.' For, we are a Holy people."

Our Presiding Bishop prayed God's blessings on the attendees and session in what proved to be an anointed and uplifting supplication. His pastoral/oratorical tone during the prayer served as a reminder to the entire body that our spiritual leader is highly-respected throughout the world as both a Biblical scholar and a masterful presenter of the Gospel.

Following the prayer, Elder Hunt called for a certification of the House. Bishop Charles Brown, Chairman of the Credentials Committee, certified the House with a count of 657 delegates. At

this point, an observation was made that a number of delegates were still registering during the certification procedure.

Elder Thomas Holsey, Chairman of the Rules Committee, took the floor and made a presentation of the rules. He was followed by Elder A.Z. Hall, Jr., General Secretary for COGIC, who came forward to give the reading of the November 2002 Minutes.

The General Secretary explained that the minutes had been distributed to the Jurisdictional Bishops, who in turn made them available to the District Superintendents, who in turn made them available to the pastors. Elder Hall then called for the Vice-Chairman, who had the honor of presenting the Chairman.

Vice-Chairman Hunt reiterated that he would be acting on behalf of the Chairman, Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr., due to his illness. He then called General Secretary Hall back to present the agenda.

The first item on the agenda called for the Report from the Presiding Bishop and the General Board. Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson revisited the fact that many delegates were still registering. He advised Elder Hunt due to that occurrence, the Presidium Report would be given at the evening session. The Presiding Bishop explained that this was being done to ensure that all delegates would receive the full benefits for registering to participate in the General Assembly.

Elder Hunt then called for the Trustee Board's Report. Elder Charles Mason Ford serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Superintendent Dickerson L.S. Wells is the Secretary. After addressing the House, Elder Ford called on Superintendent Wells to submit the report.

The Secretary of the National Board of Trustees advised that per the approval of the General Assembly in November, the group did direct and oversee the Office of National Properties in the completion and current operation of the following: (1) Allocation of funds for Saints Academy and other National Property in Lexington, Mississippi. (2) Assuring that all properties are properly insured. (3) Service fire

extinguishers at all Headquarters properties. (4) Fire Department inspections of 272 S. Main Street (formerly Chisca Hotel). (5) Ongoing repairs of Mason Street and Main Street properties.

(6) Ensure that COGIC's insurance coverage is adequate and up-to-date by deleting property no longer owned by COGIC, adding property acquired by our Church, and applicable property replacement coverage. (7) Interviewing, hiring and evaluation of employees for the Office of National Properties; were some of the things included in the summation of actions taken by the National Board of Trustees.

The next item on the agenda called for the Resolutions Committee. Elder Talbert Swan, Chairman for the Committee, advised his group was focused on preparing for the Constitutional Convention's briefings and had nothing new to report to the assemblage.

Vice-Chairman Hunt asked for the Constitution Committee Report, and advised following that submittal the Assembly would recess and reconvene for the evening session at 6 p.m.

Bishop Earl J. Wright, Chairman of the Constitution Committee, thanked Elder Hunt and addressed the House. He gave his personal kudos to the members of his committee for their hard work on a proposed Amendment to the Constitution of The Church Of God In Christ, Inc. Article III, Section B, Subsection I, Subdivision (e) Membership.

It was then time for the task at hand -- the third reading of the proposed Amendment, which reads as follows: The following shall qualify as delegates to the General Assembly: Four (4) District Missionaries and Six (6) Lay Delegates, All Wives of Former General Board Members, Former Jurisdictional Supervisors (in good standing) and the wife of the Jurisdictional Bishop.

The proposed change was read by committee member, Supervisor E.N. Wagoner, and Bishop Wright advised Vice-Chairman Hunt that this was the third reading and the matter was ready for a vote. Elder Hunt asked for a motion, it was given and seconded, and the motion prevailed. The Amendment was ratified.

At this point, Elder Hunt asked for and received a motion to adjourn until 6 p.m.

The environment at Historic Mason Temple was charged with anticipation as the delegates and guests returned for the 6 p.m. session of the 2003 General Assembly April Call Meeting. It was obvious that the saints were anxious to hear from Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson and the General Board.

At approximately 6 p.m. Vice-Chairman Hunt called the House to order, and again called for the Chaplain Elder Fulker. After the innovation, Bishop Charles Brown certified the House with a count of 753.

It was then time to hear from the Presidium. Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson revisited his vision for COGIC.

A Holiness-Pentecostal body that is true to its heritage. Our Presiding Bishop wants the membership to view COGIC as an international church with a global vision. He emphasized the importance for the laity to support the National Church with the \$12.00 membership offering. Our Chief Apostle advised that based on the actual amount given in the Membership Report, our Church does not have the 5.5 million (or a more conservative amount in the millions -- depending on what source is being used) membership that is being reported, rather it is more like 50,000, (only about 50,000 of the laity actually paid the membership report) he said. He also noted that it is essential for the Jurisdictional Prelates to be accurate and consistent tithers to the National Church, and to cease the practice of paying an arbitrary amount to the denomination instead of their tithes.

Our Presiding Bishop noted he understands the functions of the checks and balances between the various branches of government in COGIC. He warned, however, that this structure should not be interpreted and implemented on the same level as the federal government. "You must trust your leadership," Bishop G.E. Patterson stressed. The Chief Apostle added that the membership should not lose sight of the fact that he and the General Board have the best interest of the Church at heart. He stated that an attempt by the General Assembly to restrict the actions of the Presiding Bishop and General Board through checks and balances "will tear this church apart."

The Presiding Bishop again stressed the importance of each Jurisdiction fulfilling its financial obligations. He advised that he was prepared to give a \$75,000 payment toward his pledge of \$500,000 to the National Church. An additional payment of that amount during the International Holy Convocation will put him at that landmark, Bishop G.E. Patterson said. The Presiding Bishop acknowledged that 2004 is an election year, but he indicated that he is not enthused about mounting a political campaign. He also stated that he would not support a resolution to serve for life. Bishop G.E. Patterson said it was in God's hands if he is to continue to serve as Presiding Bishop, or continue to focus his ministry as the Chief Shepherd for Temple of Deliverance.

At this point Bishop W.W. Hamilton, Secretary of the General Board, was asked to come forth and give the remainder of the Presidium's report.

Highlights of Bishop Hamilton's report included: (1) The Presiding Bishop and General Board appointed Elder Bobby Henderson to serve as Bishop of Uganda, South Africa. (2) The General Board appointed Elder Dwight Green Bishop Designee to the Republic of South Korea. (3) The Presiding Bishop and General Board traveled to Jacksonville, Florida to eulogize Bishop C.D. Kinsey. Before the death of Bishop Kinsey, who served with distinction over the years, the Presiding Bishop and General Board took the following action in the Florida Central Jurisdiction. The Jurisdiction was divided into two Jurisdictions with Bishop Rushire

Dixon serving as Prelate of Florida Central I, and Bishop Edward Robinson serving as Prelate of Florida Central II.

The news alert of the report came when Bishop Hamilton advised the renovation of the church's property at 272 South Main (the old Chisca Hotel) was going to put COGIC in the lead in redeveloping the South Main area of Downtown Memphis

Please note: Per Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, The Whole Truth will publish a full news feature on this historic redevelopment project in a future edition. At this point, the venture is still in its initial stages.

With the approval of the General Assembly, COGIC has entered a partnership with Group One Productions, Inc. of Winter Park, Florida to initiate the Chisca Redevelopment Project.

The agreement calls for Group One to put up all the finances to renovate the Chisca and establish a new hotel. In addition, some of the 300 rooms will be converted for office and retail space. The more than \$80 million project will greatly enhance the quality of life in the South Main District while benefiting the National Church financially, and stimulating economic development.

Following Bishop Hamilton's report, Elder Enoch Perry, Esquire, General Counsel for COGIC, advised that the National Church is involved in litigation in the civil courts. Most of the lawsuits cited involve companies suing the National Church for actions taken by a party who entered into a contract without the approval of the General Board or General Assembly. One lawsuit, however, concerns the moral behavior of a pastor. The General Counsel also gave an update on the work in Trinidad, in regards to COGIC obtaining its charter in that country. He stated that the legal work had been completed and that our National Church has been incorporated in Trinidad.

At the conclusion of Elder Enoch Perry's report, Bishop Hamilton requested that Vice-Chairman Hunt entertain a motion to have the General Assembly approve the Report of the Presiding Bishop and General Board.

Elder Hunt advised that according to the Constitution, there should be copies available concerning the decisions regarding the creation of Jurisdictions for the General Assembly to review. The Vice-Chairman added that his understanding of the Constitution called for the entire report to be ratified by the assemblage.

The articulate pastor from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania noted he was not trying to be difficult or disrespectful, but that he was just simply abiding by the Constitution. "Our Constitution is all that we have to go by...this is what governs us," he emphatically stated.

Presiding Bishop Patterson and First Assistant Presiding Bishop C.E. Blake, Sr., reminded Elder Hunt that he did not express any concerns about the Presidium Report in an earlier meeting.
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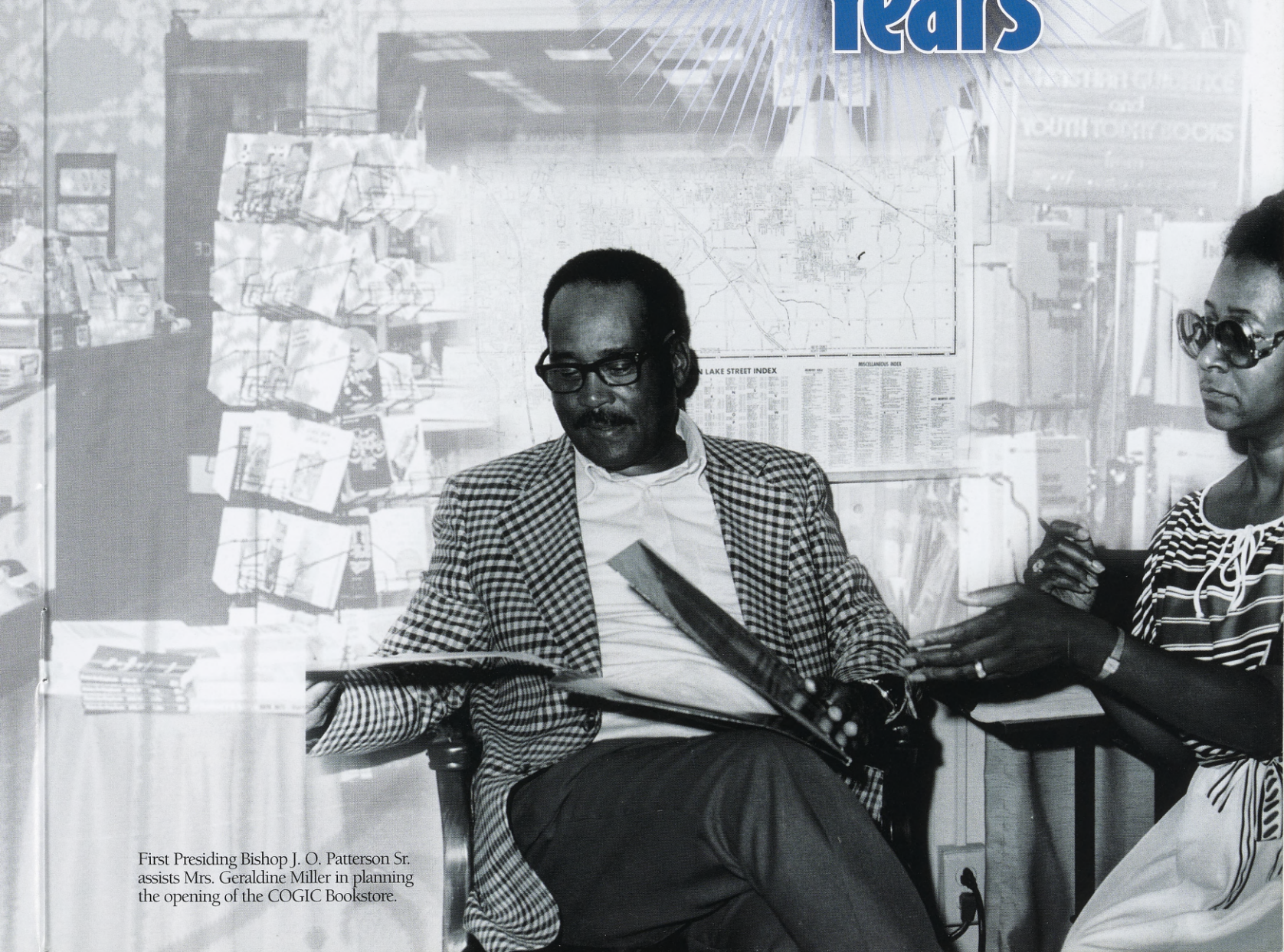
Church of God In Bookstore (1973-2003)



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony 1975
for COGIC Bookstore at 272 S.
Main location. From right:
Presiding Bishop J. O. Patterson Sr.,
Bishop S. Crouch, Bishop F D.
Washington, Bishop Roy Winbush,
Mrs. Deborah Patterson, Mrs.
Geraldine Miller.

Christ
(2003)

Celebrating
30
Years



First Presiding Bishop J. O. Patterson Sr. assists Mrs. Geraldine Miller in planning the opening of the COGIC Bookstore.

Church of God In Bookstore (1973-2003)

Kimberly Banks (left) and Joann Fayne work counter sales at the COGIC Bookstore.



Sharon Miller displays some of the Praise and Worship items that are on sale at the COGIC Bookstore.

Christ 2003)

Celebrating
30
Years

Opening day COGIC Bookstore 1973.
From left: Bishop F. D. Washington,
Bishop O. M. Kelly, Bishop Roy Winbush,
Mother Geraldine Miller.

Publishing pioneer, Bishop Roy L. H. Winbush greets
Judicial Board Member Attorney B. J. Warren.

The COGIC Bookstore is

Celebrating
30
Years

in November:

The year, 1973, was indeed a special year for our country, the leader of the free world; and for the Church Of God In Christ, the nation's most prominent Holiness-Pentecostal denomination. This was the year that provided what proved to be *A Life's Defining Moment* experience for two highly respected leaders of our church, Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush and Mother Geraldine E. Miller. They would form a dynamic team to successfully implement another arm of "ministry" for COGIC. Bishop Winbush was convinced that "the Church Of God In Christ had reached such a magnitude as a denomination that the membership needed and deserved its own bookstore."

He would receive the support of the late, First Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr., who also gave his endorsement for Mother Miller (at that time, Sister Miller) to be the manager of the facility. Later, Mother Miller would accept the position and bring her teenage daughter, Sharon, aboard to work part-time in the store. This was the beginning of a three decade tenure for a mother and daughter duo who would be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the COGIC Bookstore. In November, they will join their brothers and sisters of COGIC in celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Church Of God In Christ Bookstore. Mother Miller and Sharon told *The Whole Truth* they are especially thankful that this special observance will occur under the anointed and visionary leadership of Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson. In addition, Mother Miller is extremely pleased to share this milestone with another anointed vessel of God, Mother Willie Mae Rivers, International Supervisor of Women for COGIC.

While 1973 was not a year of peace, it was, on the whole a good year for détente. The United States withdrew its forces from Vietnam, ended its military involvement in Khmer, and reduced its troops in Thailand. President Richard Nixon had been inaugurated for his second four-year term in January, and his doctrine of withdrawal from "exposed commitments" was being implemented. The 1973 Nobel Peace Prize honored two men who played a major role in negotiating the end of fighting in Vietnam. Le Duc Tho, a North Vietnam diplomat, and Henry A. Kissinger, U.S. Secretary of State, were named co-winners of the prestigious award. In November, President Nixon announced he would appoint Senator William B. Saxbe (R., Ohio) to succeed Elliot L. Richardson as U.S. Attorney General.

Meanwhile, the Church Of God In Christ was set to celebrate its 66th National Holy Convocation. In addition, the saints were observing the 76th anniversary of COGIC and Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr., had completed the first year of his second term as the First Presiding Bishop of our International Church.

First Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr., had designed a platform that was aimed at building on the vision of our founding father, Bishop C.H. Mason. In fact, his charming wife, Debra Patterson, was one of Bishop Mason's daughters. The First Presiding Bishop worked closely with Mother Annie Bailey, International Supervisor of Women, to enhance the Women Department's role in COGIC's International Ministry. He also chose a group of dedicated ministers to help him

PUBLISHING PIONEER FOUNDED WORK

By Calvin L. Burns

carry out his agenda. Among those bright young men who had been tapped for leadership by the Presiding Bishop, was Elder, Dr. Roy Lawrence Hailey Winbush of Lafayette, Louisiana. Dr. Winbush played an important role in the development of the COGIC Publishing House, and in the months leading to November 1973, he spearheaded a project that would unequivocally establish him as a pioneer in our beloved COGIC. The articulate pastor and astute businessman paved the way for the opening of the COGIC Bookstore.

Elected officials and community leaders in the City of Memphis were preparing a special welcome for the more than 20,000 delegates who had journeyed from around the globe to attend the Holy Convocation. A recently released report from the Memphis Chamber of Commerce revealed the saints' gathering in November had become the city's largest annual convention. Some city leaders were well aware of the economic significance of those findings, while others noted the rich spiritual legacy of COGIC.

First Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr., was pleased that the local community was finally beginning to realize the international impact of COGIC. He emphasized that the entire community should be appreciative for the spiritual and economic benefits Memphians received as a direct result of their city being the International Headquarters for our church.

Dr. Winbush was keenly aware of the prominence that God had blessed COGIC to attain. In fact, he was convinced that our International Church needed its own bookstore. In 1972, he had approached First Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr., about his concept of establishing a full-service bookstore for the saints. The Presiding Bishop gave his permission for Dr. Winbush to move forward with the project. He also gave some insight on the location, management and overall planning of the store.

The visionary educator and pastor moved quickly to establish a committee to work with him on this ambitious undertaking. He chose Elder Nathaniel Jones, Elder F.E. Perry and Elder Jerry Maclin to assist him in organizing the COGIC Bookstore.

Again, the First Presiding Bishop gave his approval of the men chosen for the committee and for the project. His confidence in the ability and integrity of these young men and the project was well founded. For not only did the COGIC Bookstore

ONEER, BISHOP ROY WINBUSH RK AT 66TH HOLY CONVOCATION

become a reality by officially opening during the 66th National Holy Convocation, all of the Elders involved in the project eventually were elevated to the Office of Bishop.

In a recent interview with *The Whole Truth* Bishop Winbush recalled how after forming a committee to handle the actual organizing of the COGIC Bookstore, he then turned his attention to hiring a qualified manager to oversee the day-to-day operations. He worked closely with Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr., before the Bishop became the First Presiding Bishop and he met several leaders at Pentecostal Temple COGIC where Bishop Patterson served as pastor. Bishop Winbush had been uplifted by a number of the laity at Pentecostal; however, he had been particularly impressed with the Miller family. Brother Calvin E. Miller served faithfully as a deacon at Pentecostal Temple and his wife, Sister Geraldine Miller a RN, was also active at the church.

"I felt Sister Miller would make an excellent manager for our bookstore," Bishop Winbush said. "She had embarked on a career in medicine as a Registered Nurse, but I knew she had a heart for ministry and that through her education and training she had acquired the diverse managerial skills that were essential for this to be a successful endeavor. I talked with Bishop Patterson about getting permission from her husband, Deacon Calvin Miller, to talk to her about becoming the manager of the Church Of God In Christ Bookstore."

Deacon Miller did indeed give his consent for Mrs. Miller to discuss an opportunity to be part of an exciting move in the extension of ministry for our church. She listened prayerfully as her pastor, the First Presiding Bishop, explained why he had given his endorsement for her to serve in the new post. He also advised her that the COGIC Bookstore would be located inside the Chisca Hotel. The Snowden family, the previous owners of this historic hotel, donated the facility to COGIC shortly after Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr., became First Presiding Bishop of our church.

After additional prayer and meditation, Mother Miller agreed to become the first manager of the COGIC Bookstore. She then proceeded to make the transition from RN to Christian Bookstore manager. She viewed her career change as one of venturing from the field of medicine into the harvest of ministry. The dedicated nurse was officially appointed by First Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr., dur-



Mrs. Roxie Thomas displays some of the missionary attire that is on sale at the COGIC Bookstore.

Frederic Dotson displays some of the clergy robes that are available at the COGIC Bookstore.

Mother Geraldine Miller (left) and daughter Sharon Miller, discuss Bishop Jerry Maynard's book "Maximize Your Potential."

ing the 1973 Tennessee Convocation of the Headquarters Jurisdiction.

The First Presiding Bishop then gave his permission for Bishop Winbush to hire a husband and wife consulting team to work with Mother Miller in setting up the COGIC Bookstore. The team members were quite knowledgeable in operating and stocking Christian Bookstores. Mother Miller readily drew from their expertise and quickly advanced towards having the COGIC Bookstore ready to meet its November 1973, opening date.

After reviewing the initial inventory of Bibles, books, envelopes, tapes, robes and clergy attire, Bishop Winbush had one additional item that he thought would be a big seller – Savoy Records. He knew that Savoy Records was the label of choice for a number of Black Gospel artists at that time and he was convinced that the purchasing receipts from Savoy's tapes and records would reflect well on the bottom-line. The fact that several COGIC recording artists were under contract with Savoy reinforced his conviction of the profitability of the venture.

"I (negotiated the deal with the record label) was able to get them to put Savoy Records in our bookstore," Bishop Winbush recalled. "Those records really sold well, and that was the main reason the bookstore made a profit in the beginning."

Mother Miller and her daughter, Sharon, talked with *The Whole Truth* about those early years of the COGIC Bookstore. They recalled how the First Presiding Bishop's vision for the bookstore was for it to be an extension of the International Ministry of COGIC.

"We fully understood that this was indeed ministry, and not a for profit enterprise," Mother Miller, said. "There were days that our total sales were \$3.00 or less...you had to love it" (the call to minister and assist ministries through the venue of the bookstore).

The gracious pioneer noted that the First Presiding Bishop implemented standard official attire for the Bishops, Elders and Missionaries at the same time he gave the go ahead for the opening of the COGIC Bookstore. Through the directives of the First Presiding Bishop the COGIC Bookstore became the official vendor for our clergy and missionaries to purchase their Class A Vestments, Habits, Official COGIC Manual, and the COGIC Hymnal.

Sales started to climb and that escalation continued as Mother Miller expanded the bookstore's inventory to include creative teaching aids, Christian books from internationally acclaimed publishing houses and clergy attire and manuals for all Christian denominations.

The quality of services offered at the bookstore made it a popular choice for members of various Christian denominations from across the Greater Mid-South. Its convenient location on the South Main District in Downtown Memphis was a plus as well. So much so, that when COGIC vacated the Chisca in 1975, the bookstore

moved down the street to 272 South Main. The COGIC Bookstore moved to its current location at 285 South Main in 1991.

The corner stone offer for the COGIC Bookstore since its inception; however, has been the mail order service. In fact, the majority of the bookstore's sales today come from the mail orders. Sharon Miller, who literally grew up while working at the bookstore, gave *The Whole Truth* an overview of the volume of business at the facility.

"Seventy-five percent of our business is mail order," Sharon Miller explained. "The other 25 percent of our business comes from other denominations." She added that a slow day in sales now is 500 times more than what a slow day constituted when she was a teenager. She said the innovative leadership of Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson is also a major reason why other denominations are utilizing the services of our bookstore.

Sharon Miller also commended Bishop Jerry L. Maynard, Chief of Staff for Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, for lending his expertise along with the Publishing Board Commission to ensure the continued success of the facility. Bishop Winbush serves as Chairman of COGIC's Publishing Board, and Bishop Samuel L. Green and Bishop LeRoy Anderson serve as Members of the Board or Commissioners.

Mother Miller emphasized the major focus of the bookstore's inventory is aimed at extending COGIC's ministry into the community. "Our focus is on ministry and we are here to do a service for the saints and the entire community," she said. "This is the Church Of God In Christ's Bookstore; therefore, we will not offer any literature or merchandise that is contrary to the doctrine of our church."

Sharon Miller noted that same policy applied to her as she grew up working at the bookstore. "I was not allowed to wear pants," she recalled. "Mother made it clear that I must not do anything that could be interpreted as disrespecting the saints or

the doctrine of the Church Of God In Christ." She added while laughing, "If I didn't attend church on Sunday, Mother would not speak to me on Monday."

Today, a staff of six is available to serve the thousands of customers who take advantage of the massive inventory offered at the COGIC bookstore. Kimberly Banks and Joann Fayne work in counter sales. Roxie Thomas and Henry Thomas take care of the shipping duties, and Frederick Dotson handles the computer specialist and music associate duties. Sharon Miller now assists her mother with the daily management duties at the bookstore.

The COGIC Bookstore is a full-service Christian operation. It is open from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. on Saturdays. You may reach the COGIC Bookstore by calling (901) 525-4004, or you may send a fax to (901) 525-4001.

Patrons can make purchases from a wide variety of books, Bibles, church supplies, male and female clergy attire, hymnals, communion ware, and manuals. In addition, there are more than 500 references pertaining to workbooks and research manuals on Bible Study, Christian Education, Church Leadership, Sermon Preparation and Effective Witnessing Techniques.

The COGIC Bookstore also has an impressive collection of inspirational and motivational books written by the leaders of our church. Some of the books on the COGIC Bookstore *Best Seller List* include Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson's *Here Comes The Judge*; Maximize Your Potential, by Bishop Jerry L. Maynard, Ph.D; Bishop C.H. Mason & the *Roots of the Church Of God In Christ*, by Bishop Ithiel C. Clemmons; *Do's And Don'ts Of A Christian Wardrobe*, by Missionary Brenda Postle; *What It Means to Pray Through*, by Mother E.J. Dabney; and *Like As of Fire! Newspapers' Reports From the Azusa Street World Wide Revival*, collected by Fred T. Corum and

Rachel Sizelove, republished by E. Myron Noble, Editor.

November 2003, marks the 96th Annual National Holy Convocation of the International Church Of God In Christ. More than 40,000 delegates will gather in Memphis to receive information and inspiration on how to - *Move Into The Excellence Of Ministry: Experience The Transformation*. The highlight of this propitious setting will be the Official Address of our Chief Apostle, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson. Additionally, the delegates will be able to absorb a wealth of knowledge at the various seminars, workshops and services. Another favorite stop for the saints will be the COGIC Bookstore, which will be celebrating 30 years of ministerial support for the members of our International Church.

Just as the bookstore has grown to new heights over the past three decades, so have the careers of the pioneers who played a crucial role in its establishment and success. The prolific achievement of both Bishop Winbush and Mother Miller exemplifies Proverbs 18:16 *A man's (or woman's) gift (wealth of knowledge as well as finance) maketh room for him (her) and bringeth him (them) before great men.*

Bishop Winbush has served his community and COGIC with distinction. He was consecrated to the Office of Bishop in 1983, as the Prelate of the First Jurisdiction of Louisiana. He is currently the Pastor of the



Gethsemane COGIC in Lafayette, Louisiana. He graduated with honors from Southern University in Baton Rouge. He attended Union Theological Seminary in New York, received his Master's of Divinity Degree from the New Orleans Theological Seminary, and his Doctorate of Divinity Degree from C.H. Mason Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. He has also been honored with two other doctorates along with numerous other awards and scholastic achievements.

Bishop Winbush served as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He served in Korea and received an honorable discharge. In 1949, he was named the recipient of the American Legion Award. He is a member of the Congress of National Black Churches (CNBC), and he has served as Chairman of this highly regarded organization. CNBC is comprised of eight major denominations, which represent 65,000 churches and 19 million members.

In 1979, Bishop Winbush along with his wife, Dr. Mae C. Winbush established the Gethsemane Christian Academy in Lafayette. This faith-based school has a curriculum for students in kindergarten through the eighth grade. They also established the LaPetite Academy, a development center that offers health care for those ranging in age from newborn up to four years old. In addition, Bishop and Dr. Winbush are the co-founders of the Roy-Mae Winbush School in Haiti.

In his role as Jurisdictional Prelate, Bishop Winbush organized the Winbush Bible Institute, for the training of Christian workers. He also organized the COGIC Credit Union, which is state chartered. Additionally, he established two Jurisdictional newspapers, *COGIC Visitor* and the *Good Shepherd*. He established the *Love Alive College Ministry* on the Lafayette Campus of the University of Louisiana, as part of the First Jurisdiction's outreach ministry.

Bishop Winbush serves or served the International Church in the following capacities: Member of the General Board, Editor-in-Chief of the Sunday School Quarterly, President of the National Publishing Board, Director of Curriculum for the Charles Harrison Mason System of Bible Colleges, Chairman of the Board for the C.H. Mason Theological Seminary, Organizer and former Chairman of the United National Auxiliaries Convention (now known as AIM), Chairman of the Saints Center Board, Organizer of the COGIC Bookstore and producer of the COGIC Hymnal.

Indicative of a distinguished leader, Bishop Winbush cites the service of Mother Miller for being the catalyst in bringing his vision for the COGIC Bookstore into existence. He pays tribute to this gracious servant of God in the same manner that a General would commend an officer who serves under his command.

"I am indeed grateful and indebted to Mother Geraldine Miller for her outstanding service as manger of the Church Of God In Christ Bookstore," Bishop Winbush said. "Her leadership has been exemplary. She has the commitment of a dedicated soldier, who served with valor inspite of encountering

various hardships." Bishop Winbush reflected in an obvious tone of admiration on how in the initial stages of the COGIC Bookstore Mother Miller operated on a "shoe string budget." He added that the entire membership has benefited from Mother Miller's dedication and commitment to excellence.

Mother Miller's march as a Christian Soldier with COGIC began in 1959, when she joined Pentecostal Temple COGIC pastored by the late Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr. She served in the local church as a Sunday School teacher, President of the Youth for Christ, President of the Deaconess Board, and Trustee Board member. In 1995, Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr., recommended her to be named Supervisor of Women for the Tennessee Headquarters Jurisdiction. She was appointed to the post by Mother Emma Crouch. In addition to her State of Tennessee Jurisdictional duties, Mother Miller serves the International Church as National Adjutant Mother. Mother Miller also serves on the international level as a Member of the Board of Directors for the McGlothen House, Treasurer for the National Women's Executive Board, Member of the National Women Department's Resolutions Committee, Member of the General Assembly's Executive Committee, and Member of the General Supervisor's Area Representative Board.

Her administrative achievements and highlights include gaining second place honors for the women of the Tennessee Headquarters Jurisdiction in *Compliments and Red Cards* at the 2000 International Women's Convention, a third place recognition for *Compliments* at the 1999 International Women's Convention, established the Superintendent's Wives Circle for the Tennessee Headquarters Jurisdiction, organized the Jurisdiction's Overcomer's Unit, and she authored two books *The Deaconess* and *A Call To Order*.

Mother Miller gives God the glory for blessing her to utilize her talents and gifts in effective ministry. This humble servant of the Lord recaps her impressive tenure as Supervisor of Women for the Tennessee Headquarters Jurisdiction and as manager of the COGIC Bookstore with the same perspective she had in 1973.

She admonishes the men and women of COGIC to remember "that we are about ministry and everybody should Praise the Lord!"

April Call Meeting continued

The Chief Apostle then reviewed his concerns about trying to adhere to a federal government's interpretation concerning checks and balances. He stressed the importance of trust and saintly respect.

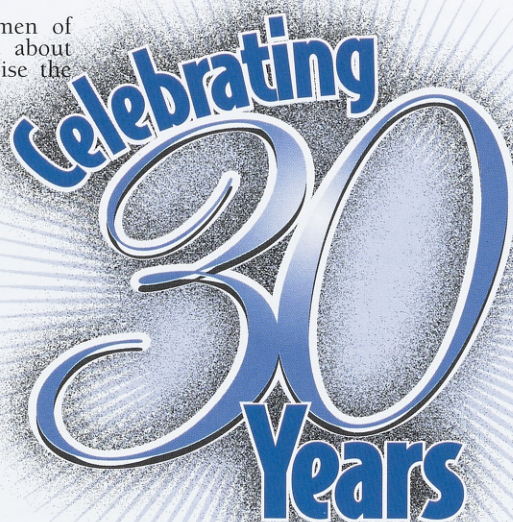
Again, Elder Hunt pointed to the Constitution. "I have the up-most respect for Bishop G.E. Patterson," he said. "I believe he is one of the greatest preachers in the country." He added that as the leader of the General Assembly, his focus had to remain on the Constitution.

This unexpected focus of concern centered around a difference of interpretation regarding checks and balances. Elder Hunt was convinced that the General Assembly had the authority to review the General Board's Report and raise any questions regarding the Constitution. Presiding Bishop Patterson was convinced that the report had been submitted in accordance to and within the spirit of the bylaws.

After much discussion, in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order; there was a suspension of rules and Bishop Hamilton moved for the adoption of the report. There was a second, and after resolving a series of un-readiness, the motion prevailed.

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson ended the session by commending Elder Hunt on his leadership. Bishop Patterson said despite his "philosophical differences" with the Vice-Chairman, he admired the manner in which he expedited the agenda.

The General Assembly concluded in a spirit of unity with all aspects of the leadership projecting a theme of Holiness Unto the Lord.



COGIC on the MOVE!

By Glenda Williams Goodson

Grayson's Entertainment Center Focused on Family-Related Activities

MEMPHIS – Bishop David W. Grayson, founder and pastor of Grayson Temple Church Of God In Christ, has moved an innovative ministry beyond the doors of his church into Grayson's Family Entertainment and Conference Center, which is adjacent to the sanctuary. Located in Raleigh on a well-traveled thoroughfare at 3320 Austin Peay Highway, it is showcased on five-acres with 27,000 sq. ft. where unlimited growth is possible.

Bishop Grayson explained that his ministry is aimed at bringing families together and impacting their lives through the Gospel. "Our focus is on the family," Bishop Grayson said. "The Center is the latest step to restore the church's role as a community resource, which transcends racial lines and brings together an integrated group of people. I have a holistic ministry that is designed to bring families together under one roof in a Christian environment."

Bishop Grayson views recreation as an outreach evangelism tool. He said this strategy attracts a number of people to come to church, who normally wouldn't come through the door for worship services. "The Family Entertainment Center is becoming Grayson Temple's primary mission field," he said. "Members of our church share the Gospel through demonstrating their passion for people, and serving guests who visit the Center. The kingdom of God is here."

The Center has several rooms with cinema size screens and a seating capacity of 220. The movies are free. A big screen television offers continuous, spectacular viewing of sporting events in another venue.

A full-service concession stand offers pizza, hamburgers, hot dogs, ice cream, soft drinks and assorted candies. There are private venues for birthday parties, wedding receptions and conferences. The second level houses executive offices and Grayson Temple's television and radio ministries.

For more information, call Grayson's Family Entertainment and Conference Center at (901) 388-4221.

Local Church Purchases Entire Shopping Plaza

ATLANTA—The Community of Joy COGIC has recently purchased an entire plaza in Atlanta. As the church prepares to celebrate in September its fifth year in ministry Pastor Keith McGrew and First Lady Shirley McGrew wish to share how the Community of Joy Church Of God In Christ Urban Ministry Center is experiencing the favor of God in a number of different ways. The First Lady was recently promoted to Assistant Deputy Director, the highest position held by an African American at the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the church has recently launched Summer Camp and After School Programs and making plans for an Early Learning Center, they are partnering with other Faith Based Organizations to offer counseling for Alcohol and Drug Addiction, Job Readiness, and also making plans to serve as an enrollment center and purchasing site for the states WIC Program (Women Infants and Children).

The pastor credits the church's success with a community directed commitment toward ministry and constant corporate prayer for revival. "We are seeing early results of this revival in the outpouring of children that have come into this ministry from the community. We have touched the lives of over 100 children in a very short time," he said. The Church is part of the Central Georgia Jurisdiction under the leadership of Bishop CD Owens. The Supervisor of Women is Mother Edith McGrew, who is a member of the church and the pastor's mother.

Evangelist Herdleen Russell Journeys to Uganda

UPPER MALBORO, MARYLAND—In March 2003 Evangelist Herdleen Russell of the Ridgley Church Of God In Christ in Greater Maryland First Jurisdiction conducted her third Pastor's Conference in Uganda where 1,023 pastors registered for the seven concurrent workshops held. She reports that a miraculous event occurred in the Bondage and Deliverance sessions when one of the pastors traveling with the team began to speak in tongues and seemingly could not stop. The USA team noticed that a section of the Ugandan men...were sanctioning his presentations with loud vocal praises. "We found out later that he was speaking in their dialect," she said and added that "(it) sounds like the day of Pentecost to me...God is truly awesome." In the year 2000, God instructed Evangelist Russell to, "Ask for Africa" and she told him yes. Her journeys began in 1998 when she was keynote speaker at a Women's Conference in Jinja, Uganda East Africa. She conducted a Pastor's Conference in 2000 where 300 registered for the now annual event. She's taken COGIC youth to minister in song, praise dances and steppers. After

conferring with her husband, Supt. Herbert Russell and prelate, Bishop D.W. Spann, Supervisor Dr. Ada Marshall and with Bishop Moody's consent she agreed to establish a COGIC after the pleas of the people of Uganda (Bishop Bobby Henderson has now been appointed as prelate of Uganda and Evangelist Russell works with him.) She says, "Because Aids is so rampant there are many street children because both parents have died." After meetings a young man who heads a school for street children the group noticed that none had shoes on. "When I returned I started what was called 'The Shoe Box' and we collected shoes and clothing to take to these children as well as money."

Bethesda COGIC Hosts Ecumenical Men's Conference

NEW JERSEY—The first Men's Conference of the Bethesda COGIC, Dr. Nathaniel L. Screven, Pastor, is scheduled May 14-16, 2003 in Newark. Recently appointed Men's Conference President Elder Ahmed Screven says he has been inspired by the Pastor Darrell Hines and the COGIC Men's Conference to build the lives of men. In fact, they have invited pastors from different denominations to work with the church as coordinators in order to strengthen the men of Newark. "We have been working with these pastors since early March to promote UNITY among the body of Christ by crossing denominational lines to inspire men to be all they can be," said Elder Screven.

The conference theme, is "AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER" and Elder Screven expects that "the Lord is going to pour out His Holy Spirit on us as we worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." The prelate is Bishop John P. Lee of Eastern, NY, 4th Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, and they also support the New Garden State and First Jurisdictions of NJ. For further information please contact the church.

Oklahoma Jurisdiction Planning to Bring Home Bible Bowl Championship for the Third Year

TULSA—For the past two years, Eryne Allen, Christopher Adams, Krystal Cotton, Amber Cotton and Erika Cotton, ranging in age from 17 to 21 years, from the state of Oklahoma (Bishop L.V. Broom), have advanced through local, district, jurisdiction and national levels to become the International Bible Bowl Champions of Scholastic Motivation Ministries in the Church Of God In Christ. They are now preparing to go to AIM in Baltimore, Maryland, to attempt a three-peat—something never before achieved in the history of SMM. In an effort to support the youth of Oklahoma Northwest, Sara Jordan Powell, is sponsoring a Gala Night of Music on May 19, 2003, at the jurisdictional headquarters. All proceeds will benefit the Bible Bowl team.

Asuza COGIC Revival

Brazil—The Azusa COGIC Revival is an Evangelism Department of the Church of God in Christ in Brazil working with the Brazilian black community to integrate pastors and leaders across denominations who understand the need of the evangelization. The project's name refers to the street where the first great Spiritual Revival happened in the State of California, United States, more than 100 years. Azusa promotes spiritual renewal through leadership workshops, conferences, and exchange among pastors, theology courses, as well as distributing food and assisting young people addicted to drugs. With the support of some businessmen Azusa has ministered in the public schools against drugs and leading the drug-addicted to rehabilitation house partners of our project. They host a TV show on cable and plan to begin airing daily in Brazil by July. The group is also planning to start a show on 63 channels in Orlando, Florida. Sister. Beatrice Booker is the Resident Missionary in Brazil.

Woman Leaps from Wheelchair at Cathedral of Prayer

Columbus, GA—God is still in the healing business! Supt. Charles Rodgers and First Lady Gloria Johnson Rodgers report that one recent Sunday morning "a German lady came in a wheelchair a few days before going to surgery." The woman, who was a writer, had four herniated discs but for years was in constant pain and unable to write because she could not sit long enough. "She came to church for encouragement only," says Missionary Johnson, "but the power of God hit her as she jumped straight out of the chair and began to run around the church pulling the wheelchair!" She left to return a couple of weeks later as she explained. She had never experienced anything like that in the mainline church of which she was a member and was initially afraid. "Upon returning to her doctor he told her that all four discs were back in place and asked her what happened to her. She could only recount the event to her," explains Sis. Rodgers. The saints explained what had occurred and report that "she had had no pain since that night at Cathedral of Prayer COGIC." Cathedral COGIC is in Central Georgia Jurisdiction where Bishop C.D. Owens is prelate and Supervisor Edith McGrew is State Mother.

COGIC Campus Ministry started in Atlanta University Center

Atlanta—In the Fall 2002 semester Elder & Mrs. Quintin Robertson began meetings each Tuesday evening on the campus of Clark Atlanta University with students from Morehouse College, Spelman College and Clark Atlanta University. Two of the seminarians from C.H. Mason Seminary, Celeste Ginyard and Micaiah Young are assistants in this ministry. "The ministry has done a wonderful job meeting this past school year," Elder Robertson said. Most of the students this year were freshmen from around the country and the group looks forward to a bright future as COGIC students attend college and stay connected with our church.

Philadelphia COGIC Prison Ministry Growing

Milwaukee—Pastor John Barton and the Philadelphia COGIC has one of the most effective prison ministries in the State of Wisconsin. "We have been involved in this ministry for more than twenty years (and) visit every prison in the State of Wisconsin along with others out of the State," he said. The church conducts Bible studies in four major prisons and has a reputation of filling up the chapels in all of the prisons they visit. "In most of the prisons we have two services because we are not able to accommodate everyone in one setting." The ministry is unique because almost everyone involved is an ex-offender. "As a matter of fact," says Pastor Barton, "three of the brothers that we disciplined out of prison and trained in ministry are currently chaplains in the same prisons in which they were inmates." Prisoners who are serious about changing their lives can also find shelter in the Brotherhood House the church runs.

Church with "Small" Membership Does "Big" Things in Community

Milwaukee—The Eternal Church Of God In Christ, led by Rev. Dr. B.L. Cleveland, has done some pretty incredible things with a small membership. The pastor's vision is to help people naturally and spiritually. "The church has proven that God can take nothing and make something out of it. We hope that other pastors around the country can be encouraged and inspired to hold on and to trust God to work miracles!" says Dr. Grace Davis.

God has allowed Eternal Life COGIC to develop and build seven newly constructed multifamily housing developments through the vision and perseverance of Pastor Cleveland. "We are not a mega church, and did not have a lot of resources, but God made up the difference! We are now the owner/sponsor of seven beautiful, safe, clean and affordable apartment buildings, operated by Eternal Life. It gives us great joy to minister to our Elderly and Disabled individuals living in these buildings," she says.

The residents of the five multifamily buildings now open are appreciative and in the fall of 2003, the other two new buildings will be completed and opened for occupancy. "All glory is given to God! As if this was not enough God has now blessed Eternal Life to purchase more than nine acres of land for future growth and development," said Dr. Davis. The saints at Eternal Life

want pastors to

"be encouraged and remember there is nothing too hard for God. All of your dreams and visions can become a reality." For information contact Rev. Dr. B.L. Cleveland or Evangelist E.L. Cleveland at Eternal Life Church Of God In Christ at (262) 242-2878.

Patricia A. Rogers was a contributor to COGIC on the Move.

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by Barbara Pleasant



Milwaukee, Wisconsin – Founder's Weekend was observed at Rehoboth Miracle Temple COGIC on a faithful weekend earlier this year. It was slated for the 100th birthday of Elder Virgil Wallace, founding pastor of Rehoboth. The inspiring event celebrated the life and legacy of our beloved Elder Wallace; who nearly a decade after his death is still remembered as a master teacher, powerful presenter of the Gospel and spiritual mentor.

This special celebration observance got underway that Friday of the spirit-filled weekend with dual rehearsals for the Adult and Young Adult Reunion Choirs. Because it was just that, a reunion; rehearsal took place among shrieks, screams, and sounds of joy coming from church members who had not seen one another in years. There were hugs, kisses, tears, and introductions to families: children, grand-children, husbands and wives. Yet, among the flashing cameras and rolling videos, some great Gospel standards and COGIC praises were sung! It was uplifting.

Saturday evening hailed a fantastic musical. Evangelist Patricia Knox was a highly spirited Mistress of Ceremony. The Reunion Praise Team set the stage with power and praise. Sister Shirley "The Doctor" Bartee and Ensemble rendered musical accompaniments. Sister Pat Cunningham, who records under the name of Mary Ingram, blessed God's people with songs from her soon to be released CD. In fact, she cut recording short in Atlanta to attend; along with her nephew, Troy Cunningham. Song bird, Evangelist Brenda Spralls traveled in from Michigan, Elder Jeffery Rideout flew in from Washington, DC, Sister Robbie Horton flew up from Jackson, Mississippi and this writer journeyed from Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Founder's Weekend-Reunion-Homecoming's Grand Finale took place that Sunday afternoon, and it proved to be A Glorious Taste of Heaven. In addition to the Reunion Choirs, the Balm In Gilead Corral sung the rafters loose! Pastor Walter Bates preached a 12 minute message, admonishing the saints to Accelerate For the Cause of Christ. We were on our feet and remained there as the Glory Bound Singers sung God's praises.

Other highlights included: Pastor R.V. Mills accepted a City of Milwaukee Proclamation, signed by Mayor John O. Norquist; Mothers Idella Blakley, Artaska King, Naomi Scott and Mary Spralls rocked the house with their reflections on the impact of the ministry and life of the honoree. In addition, Deacon Eddie Lockett (57 years) and Evangelist Barbara Biddle (59 years) were recognized for their service, as the longest standing members who were saved through Elder Wallace's ministry and grew spiritual under his tutelage.

Several of the participants noted that such a soul stirring event nearly a decade after the death of the honoree, clearly showed the depth and vision of his ministry. Why did he have such an impact? The answers will vary, but a love and vision for God's people would be the constant answer. The love Elder Wallace held for The Holy Word of God and his vision for leadership played a strong role in his humble approach to building a spiritual empire by producing bishops, state supervisors, elders, apostles, pastors, evangelists, missionaries, teachers, prophets and a litany of souls that were forever changed by the power of God that worked through him.

Although a man of gnat stature, he was a giant who fervently taught by his actions. In his presence the Word was alive among us. He was loved and highly respected by all of his spiritual sons and daughters.

Again, this writer is included in that number. I especially have been moved by his anointed ability to demonstrate via signs and wonders, the way he abounded in the deep secret places in the Word and the way he would – be still. Pastor Wallace, not being ashamed of the Gospel, taught miraculous Truth and Power in the Holy Ghost.

Why is he remembered almost a decade after his death? Because he was a genuine saint of God and his ministry was built on the Solid Rock of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, the foundation upon which his ministry is laid is real, tried and true. The impression is indelible and sealed with a promise.

Contributions from Founder's Weekend were distributed in several ways. First, his name was submitted to the Wall of Remembrance at our headquarters, Historic Mason Temple, in Memphis, Tennessee. Secondly, a scholarship fund was created in his name. Plans are underway to establish other appropriate ways to honor the rich legacy of Elder Wallace. Please stay tune, The Whole Truth will keep you abreast.

Evangelist Barbara Pleasant resides in Natchitoches, Louisiana, where she is active in all aspects of church ministry. She is the producer of a local Gospel radio show, and also finds the time to produce city-wide crusades, plays and cantatas. A community activist, this anointed woman of God is in great demand as a speaker and crusade conductor. You may contact this dynamic evangelist at (318) 357-8310.

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Office Of The Director

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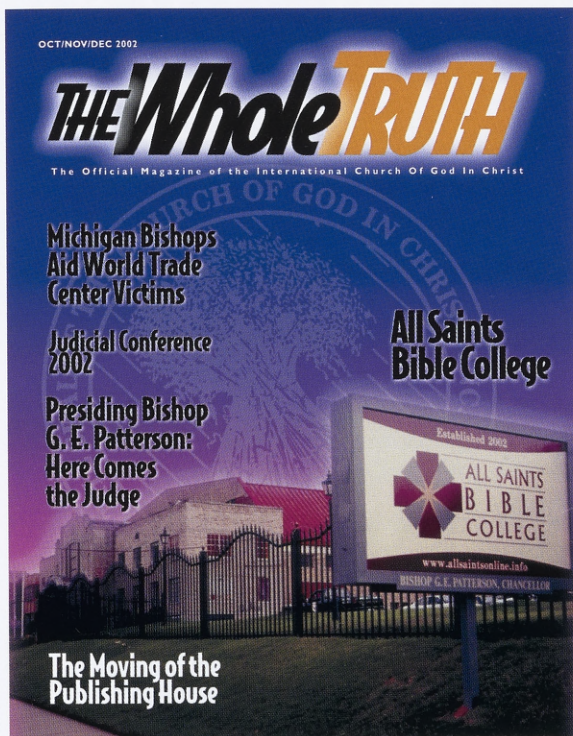
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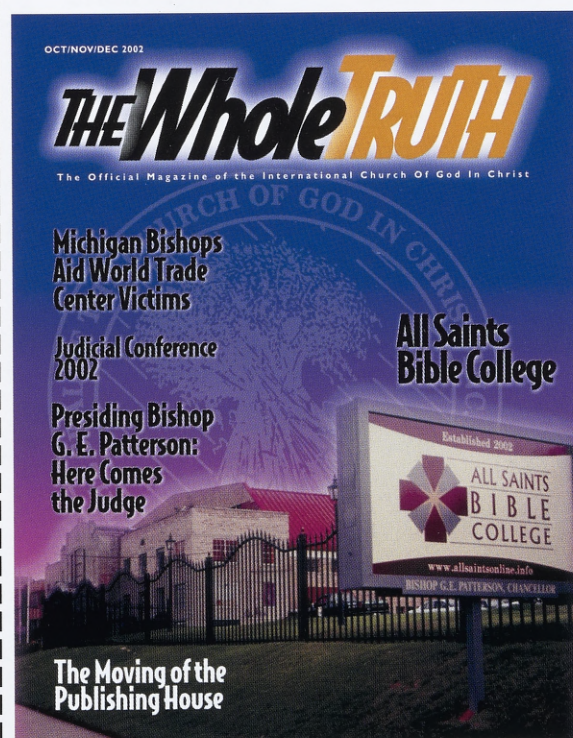
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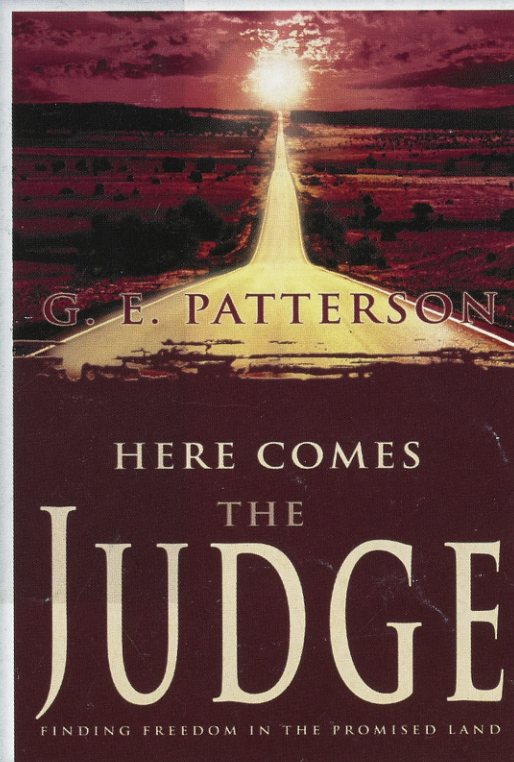
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